

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 441.—VOL. XVII.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.

[NUMBER AND TWO SUPPLEMENTS, 1s.]

THE CEYLON INQUIRY.

It will be remembered that last year certain grave charges were brought in the House of Commons against Lord Torrington, the Governor of Ceylon; charges of fomenting an insurrection in order to crush a disaffected native party more effectually; of cruelty, tyranny, and illegality in the proclamation of martial law; of wanton outrage against the religious feelings of the Cingalese; and of a general course of misgovernment, calculated, if not to imperil our possession of the dependency, to alienate the affections of the people of Ceylon, and to bring the British name into contempt and hatred. Among the particular incidents alleged were, that his Lordship had caused, without trial or proof of guilt, certain persons to be executed—among others, a pretended King of Kandy; that, after execution, he had discovered his mistake, and had then caused a second pretender to be shot, and that this second pretender was also the wrong person. It was also alleged that his Lordship had boasted of having had a priest executed in his "full canonical robes," and that the execution of a priest in this manner was a gratuitous outrage upon the religion of the country. Various other charges, equally serious, were alleged, and an inquiry into the whole matter was prayed for. The Government at first resisted all attempts to let in the light to this painful subject, and threw the shield of their protection over Lord Torrington; not only, it was supposed, because he was a relative—or near connexion of the great Whig and Governmental families of Grey and Russell, but because the conduct and policy of the head of the Colonial-office were implicated in the matter. Ultimately, however, the Government found it more politic to accede to the demand for an inquiry, the late Sir Robert Peel having warned them that to deny it would be dangerous. A select committee was accordingly appointed in 1849, "to inquire into the grievances complained of in Ceylon, in connexion with the administration and government

of the colony, and to report its opinion whether any measures can be adopted for the redress of any grievances that might be proved to exist; and for the better administration and government of the dependency." The committee was composed of men of all parties, and included Mr. Baillie, who originally brought the subject before the House, Sir Robert Peel, Mr. Hume, Sir James Weir Hogg, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. C. P. Villiers, Mr. Adderley, Lord Hotham, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Hawes, Mr. James Wilson, Sir Joshua Walmsley, Major Blackall, and Mr. Stuart Wortley. That committee heard evidence at great length; and, at the close of the Session of 1849, recommended to the House of Commons, that an humble address should be presented to her Majesty, praying that she would be graciously pleased to appoint a Commission to inquire on the spot into the means taken for the repression of the late insurrection in Ceylon. The House of Commons, on the advice of the Ministry, refused to acquiesce in the recommendation. The evidence taken before the committee was published at the commencement of the Session which has now just concluded, and was both voluminous and conflicting. The defenders of Lord Torrington were of opinion that the financial measures which had originally excited the disaffection of the Cingalese were judicious and necessary, and tended to the prosperity and good government of the dependency; and that, in proclaiming martial law for the suppression of the insurrection, Lord Torrington had acted upon the advice of the military officers, and that the apparent severity of the proceeding was real mercy, as it brought the insurrection to a speedier close, and prevented a protracted and sanguinary rebellion. It was alleged, on the other hand, that the insurrection was local and partial, and that the measures taken to repress it were unwise and unjust, accompanied by a cruel destruction of life and unnecessary destruction of property, and calculated rather to alienate than to preserve the good-will and confidence of the Cingalese, and to lessen the prospect of the future good government of the colony by Lord

Torrington. At the commencement of the Session of 1850, the committee was re-appointed; and Sir James Emerson Tennent, who is said to have accidentally arrived from Ceylon, and other parties were examined at great length. That committee has just published its third report, in which they state their opinion that the serious attention of her Majesty's Government should be called to the evidence taken in the course of the inquiry, and recommend a second time that a Royal Commission should be appointed to proceed to Ceylon, "unless some step should forthwith be taken by the Government which may obviate the necessity of further investigation."

On Monday night, Mr. Hume moved that the whole of the evidence taken during the Session of 1850 should be printed; and reiterated in general terms the charges against Lord Torrington, and against the Colonial-office for encouraging and protecting him in a course of proceeding alike dangerous, cruel, and unconstitutional. Mr. Hume, however, did not speak on behalf of the whole committee. The committee were not unanimous in their condemnation of Lord Torrington's conduct; for unanimity upon any question affecting the character of the Colonial Office was not to be expected from a committee of which the Under-Secretary for the Colonies was a member. On Monday night, Mr. Hawes, in reply to Mr. Hume, and on behalf of the Government, stated his views of the case, though not so well or so clearly as we find them stated in the draft of a report which had previously been rejected by the committee. This draft, though long, is necessary to a proper comprehension of the whole case; and we, therefore, present its principal heads as we find them in the report of the committee. Mr. Hawes, and, consequently, the Government of which he is a member, are of opinion—

1. That when Lord Torrington assumed the government of Ceylon, in the course of the year 1847, he found it labouring under great financial and commercial embarrassments.
2. That upon his arrival he took immediate measures to investigate both the



SITE OF THE BUILDING FOR THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

financial and commercial condition of the island, with a view to relieve its trade by the removal of all unnecessary restrictions; to encourage the cultivation of the great staple produce of the island, by the abolition of duties pressing injuriously upon it; and, finally, by a rigorous economy, to bring the income of the government within its expenditure.

3. That the principal financial and commercial measures which Lord Torrington introduced in the course of the year 1847, and finally adopted, were beneficial and successful, and highly creditable to Lord Torrington and the members of the government of Ceylon generally.

4. That in the year 1848 an insurrection occurred, which, among other causes of long standing, was mainly attributable to unfounded rumours and misrepresentations which were industriously circulated amongst the people, of numerous vexatious and onerous taxes imposed or to be imposed. That the people of the Kandian provinces, especially in the districts of Matelle and Kornegalle, rose in large numbers, attacked the towns of Matelle and Kornegalle, destroyed much public and private property, and created universal alarm. That the accounts which reached Lord Torrington of these disturbances, represented that disaffection prevailed to a great extent amongst the inhabitants of these populous districts, who were known to be generally in the possession of arms, and that the extensive and scattered plantations of coffee were exposed to imminent danger.

5. That at this time the amount of military force at Lord Torrington's disposal, for the maintenance of the public peace in so extensive an island, was, under these circumstances, insufficient, and he therefore immediately sent to Madras for reinforcements, and also, with the unanimous advice of his executive council proclaimed martial law on the 29th and 31st of July, in the districts of Matelle and Kornegalle. That the Governor had the full concurrence and support of the highest military authorities, and generally of all classes of the inhabitants, in these and the other measures which he adopted for the suppression of the rebellion, and that they were successful in promptly effecting that object and completely restoring the public peace, which has not since been disturbed.

6. That martial law in the proclaimed districts was continued till October 10, or a period of ten weeks. That the policy and necessity of continuing martial law has been denied by many of the witnesses examined, whose opinion is entitled to consideration. That it appears, however, that Colonel Drought, the commandant at Kandy, in a statement laid before this committee, considered the continuance of martial law necessary; that Major-General Smelt, on the 25th of Sept., 1848, addressed a letter to Lord Torrington to that effect, and that on the 2d of October, 1848, the Legislative Council unanimously concurred in an address to the Governor approving of his conduct.

7. That, with these facts before them, the committee think it due to Lord Torrington to express a general approbation of the measures he adopted with a view to the restoration of tranquillity; and though as to his conduct in some respects the evidence before them is conflicting, and that of some witnesses strongly inculcates him, they are of opinion that there is of ground whatever for doubting that he acted throughout these proceedings in very difficult circumstances, with the single object of restoring the public peace and maintaining the security of life and property.

8. That, while the committee to this extent approve the public conduct of Lord Torrington, they regret that private communications have been brought under their notice as having passed between him and some of the principal officers of his government, of which they are bound to express their very strong disapprobation. That, as Lord Torrington has had no opportunity of offering any explanation with respect to these communications, consisting chiefly of letters marked "private and confidential," and obviously written by him in the expectation that they would be so considered, and as these letters and the evidence connected with them relate entirely to personal matters, not having a direct bearing on the subject of the present inquiry, the committee think it inexpedient to report these letters and this evidence to the House; but, in abstaining from doing so, the committee consider it right to express their opinion that these letters and evidence have brought to light the existence of dissensions amongst the officers of the Ceylon government highly detrimental to the public service; that communications of the character of these letters were calculated to aggravate such dissensions; and that this state of things requires the prompt and decided interference of her Majesty's Government with a view to its correction.

Mr. Hawes and Lord John Russell, holding these opinions, opposed the printing of the evidence; and Mr. Hawes moved an amendment, to the effect that the "evidence taken before the Ceylon Committee be referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the members of her Majesty's Government." In the last week of the Session, it was not likely, however important the matter might have been, that any serious opposition would be offered to a proposal emanating from the Government, and the amendment was accordingly carried. In effect, therefore, Earl Grey—whose administration of his department is as much impugned as Lord Torrington's administration of the affairs of Ceylon—is to be the judge of the whole business, unless, in the next Session of Parliament, the subject shall be re-opened without fear or favour. This has been promised; but, in the meantime, the Government—doubtless with a view to prevent all further enquiry into the subject, and to quash the existing and unpublished evidence—has recalled Lord Torrington, and appointed Sir George Anderson to succeed him.

Such, in a few words, is the history of the Ceylon inquiry. It is evident, however, that the question cannot be allowed to rest as the Government would have it. If no other person in Parliament will call for full publicity and further inquiry into the conduct of Lord Torrington and other individuals, Lord Torrington himself may, perhaps, be induced, on his return to this country, to insist upon an investigation. At present, his Lordship's friends have condemned him more severely than his opponents, and in justice to himself he will doubtless court inquiry. It is better for his Lordship that the whole truth should be known, than that vague rumours should be allowed to circulate against him. One thing certain is, that the proper administration of our vast Colonial empire is a matter of infinitely more importance than the public or private character of any individual, whether that individual be Lord Torrington, Earl Grey, or Lord John Russell. It is equally certain, we think, that Parliament, next session, will thoroughly investigate the whole subject of this Ceylon insurrection.

SITE FOR THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851.

UPON the preceding page is engraved the portion of Hyde Park to be appropriated to the building for the Great Exhibition of 1851. The builders have already commenced the works for the reception of Mr. Paxton's beautiful design, to be executed in Birmingham and the neighbourhood. Messrs. Fox, Henderson, and Co., of the London Works, at Smethwick, have the contract for the iron framework; Messrs. Clance, of Spon-lane, will supply the enormous quantity of glass required; and the tubes are also entrusted to a firm in the district. These three materials constitute, in fact, the entire building.

At a meeting recently held at Bakedell, in support of the Exhibition, and graced by the presence of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire and the Earl of Burlington, Mr. Paxton stated that the building will be 2100 feet long by 400 broad. The centre aisle will be 120 feet broad, or 10 feet wider than the Conservatory at Chatsworth. The glass and its iron supports comprise the whole structure. The columns are precisely the same throughout the building, and would fit every part; the same may be said of each of the bars; and every piece of glass will be of the same size, namely four feet long. The whole will be put together like a perfect piece of machinery. The building is entirely divided into 24 places—in short, everything runs to 24, so that the work is made to square and fit, without any small detail being left to carry out. The number of columns 15 feet long is 6024; there are 3000 gallery bearers; 1245 wrought-iron girders; 45 miles of sash bars; and one million, seventy-three thousand, seven hundred and sixty feet of glass to cover the whole. The site will stand upon upwards of 20 acres of ground; but the available space which may be afforded by the galleries can be extended to about 30 acres, if necessary. The whole will be covered in by the 1st of January. Now if, after the purposes of the Exhibition are answered, it was thought desirable to let the building remain—and he sincerely hoped it would not be pulled down nor shipped to America—if they chose to let it remain, see to what a purpose it might be applied. There might be made an excellent carriage drive round the interior, as well as a road for equestrians, with the centre tastefully laid out and planted, and then there would be nearly six miles of room in the galleries for a promenade for the public. (Cheers.) It is, in short, impossible to devise a plan better calculated for the purposes of light and ventilation. Since the contract had been taken by Messrs. Fox and Henderson (the first-named a Derby gentleman), Mr. Paxton has suggested the erection of scaffold poles by the sides of the columns to support the canvas, and that the workmen will be enabled to construct the building under shelter.

NEWSPAPER

THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN NEWS-

recent order issued by the Postmaster-General of the United States, all correspondence for editors and publishers of newspapers printed in the United States is permitted to pass postage free through the territory of the United States, provided such correspondence relates exclusively to matters connected with their respective newspapers.

THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN NEWS-

THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN NEWS-

THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES AND AMERICAN NEWS-

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

Louis Napoleon has commenced his "progresses" through the provinces; and, on the whole, his reception by the people has been rather of a flattering character. He left the Palace of the Elysée at six o'clock on Monday morning for the Lyons Railroad station, escorted by a detachment of Hussars. His suite consisted of three travelling carriages, containing the Ministers of War, Agriculture and Commerce, and Public Works; General Rebillot, Commander of the Gendarmerie; M. Lecomte, a representative of the department of the Yonne; and the President's Aides-de-Camp, Private Secretary, and several other persons belonging to his household. The President was received at the station by M. Baroche, Minister of the Interior; M. Berger, Prefect of the Seine; and M. Carlier, Prefect of Police; and the train started at seven o'clock. The Ministers and the Prefect of Police accompanied him as far as Tonnerre. The latest accounts mention his arrival at Dijon, amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the populace. Some doubt was felt as to the reception he would meet with in this town, it being the focus of the most extravagant opinions, both political and religious; but acclamations generally greeted his arrival.

The accounts of his progress are sharply criticised by the Legitimist and Republican journals.

A rumour was spread in Paris on Tuesday, that the President of the Republic had been suddenly seized with indisposition, arising from drinking a glass of cold water while in a state of perspiration. The report, however, was not credited, as it could not be traced to rest upon any good foundation.

M. Boulay de la Meurthe, Vice-President of the Republic, has returned to Paris, and will act as chief of the nation during the absence of Louis Napoleon.

The Legitimists, it is said, are much disconcerted by the determination attributed to the Emperor of Russia to resist all attempts to restore either branch of the Bourbon family to the throne.

The conspirators against the public peace, who have hitherto carried on their operations at Paris, have transferred their labours to the provinces. The *Courrier de la Drome* says, that, owing to letters having been intercepted, and arms and ammunition seized, an attempt has been probably prevented, having for design to throw several departments of the south into agitation. The signal was to have been given simultaneously from Paris and Marseilles. The police have got hold of lists of a political association of a secret character.

Several arrests were made in Paris on Tuesday night, among whom was the editor of the *Peuple*.

Count Molé was taken ill with fever on Sunday last, but he was considerably better on the following day.

The annual distribution of prizes at the Sorbonne took place. An immense crowd was admitted into the body of the hall by tickets, whilst on the platform were seated the Vice-President of the Republic; M. Dupin, senior; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of the Interior, M. Guizot, and other personages of note. M. Dupin and M. Guizot were loudly applauded on making their appearance. M. Parieu, the Minister of Public Instruction, pronounced the usual address of encouragement to the students, which was loudly applauded in several parts. The distribution of the prizes then took place amidst the applause of the pupils, and the sound of military music.

On Tuesday the Minister of Foreign Affairs gave audience to the representatives of several German states regarding the war between Denmark and the Duchies of Schleswig-Holstein. The Minister for Prussia refused to be present, having received no instructions from his Court upon the subject. The cause of meeting is believed to be the concentration of troops upon the borders of Holstein by order of Prussia, supposed to be with the view of affording protection to the insurgents in the event of defeat by the Danes.

The Prince of Schwartzburg has addressed a note to the Great Powers remonstrating against the pretensions of Prussia in directing the movements of troops belonging to the ruling powers of the north of Germany.

DENMARK AND SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN.

The accounts from the Duchies are at present of little interest, with the exception of the frightful catastrophe at Rendsburg, noticed in another column.

The close proximity of both armies to each other gives occasion to frequent reconnaissances from time to time, which are attended with smart skirmishes; but, in the main, matters continue in the same state of inactivity with the great body of both forces.

It is the evident desire and policy of each commander to remain as long as possible on the defensive, and to induce his adversary to quit his entrenchments, or strong position, and to become the aggressor. Were the Danes to be seduced from the defensive, the advantages of position would certainly be in favour of Willisen, who, having withdrawn all his detachments from the right bank of the Treene, and from that of the Eider west of Fredericksstadt, has concentrated his whole force in a semicircle, with its left resting upon Rendsburg, its centre in front of Schestadt, and its right leaning upon Fredericksort—a distance, from one extreme to the other, of more than thirty miles, but reducible to half that distance, unless an attack should be made at one of the extremities. He has a sort of entrenched camp in front of Rendsburg, to secure his left; Fredericksort as an *appui* for his right; and, in case of discomfiture in his centre, he can pass the canal by a dozen bridges, and draw up in security upon the Holstein banks. The position of the Danes also presents great advantages; and Willisen, notwithstanding the desire manifested by the insurgent forces to advance, cannot fail to be aware that his adversary, who has now pushed his advances close upon the line above described, would, in case of attack, withdraw to the Danewerk, and endeavour to get the enemy as far north as possible from the security and advantages offered by his present distribution. It may be safely affirmed, therefore, that the Danes will not attack, and that, unless "the pressure from without," which public opinion in Holstein may bring to bear on Willisen, to induce him to advance, no serious encounter will take place for the present.

UNITED STATES.

The accounts from New York this week are to the 2nd inst.

The new President, Fillmore, had held the usual levee or reception of the diplomatic functionaries accredited, and was gratified by the Russian Minister's appropriate expressions of condolence, and wishes for the continuation of peaceful relations were exchanged with the usual formalities.

The President, in his reply, observed, "My intention is to maintain a strict neutrality towards all nations, as the true policy of the United States."

The chief news from Congress is the rejection by the Senate of the long-pending Compromise Bill. It is stated that the question of the admission of California is to be considered separately, and divested of the many collateral issues which encumber Mr. Clay's rejected bill to such an extent as to have earned for it the sobriquet of "The Omnibus Bill."

A bill has been reported by the House, establishing a line of steam-ships between the United States and Africa.

Mr. Webster, as Secretary of State; Mr. Corwin, Secretary of the Treasury; and Mr. Hall, Postmaster-General of the new Cabinet, have already accepted their commissions, and commenced their labours. Messrs. Crittenden and Graham have also accepted their appointments, but have not arrived at Washington. It is not known whether the other two will accept office.

Garibaldi, the Roman exile, had arrived in New York, where he had met a very gratifying reception.

The cholera was abating.

FINE ARTS.

ART-UNION PRIZE PICTURES.—The selections for the present year are laudable in many respects for the taste displayed. The prizewinners are evidently improving in their judgment, and the accomplishment of this, indeed, is the chief utility of the institution. Its function is educational; and its results are manifested on these annual occasions when the choice of pictures for purchase is to be made. We have so far a test of the progress achieved. On the whole, a higher class of works than usual has been preferred, and the more domestic subjects disqualified. There is still room for improvement, however, in this respect. Among the higher prizes we may distinguish Mr. Ward's "James the Second receiving the news of the landing of the Prince of Orange," a fine composition; Mr. Hollins' picture of "Peter and the Maid," Morris's "Ridley refusing to do Homage to the Pope's Name," Redgrave's "Griselda," and Patten's exquisite Titianesque cabinet painting of "Venus and Cupid." There are also some capital pieces of Bodington's, such as his "Hazy Morning on the Thames," and his "Autumn Scene in Wales." Mr. Jan's "Gospel in the Wilderness" is a very interesting performance; and Creswick's "Morning" well sustains the artist's reputation. Among the Water-Colours, Warren's "Christ and the Disciples in the Cornfield" is expressive, and Mole's "Going to Service" tells a domestic tale with pathos. Such an exhibition is full of promise and suggestive of hope; and we trust that next year we shall have to report a yet greater improvement.

SIR ROBERT PEEL.—Mr. Carew, the sculptor, has the model of a figure now about to be cast at his studio, Somers-place, Gloucester-square, of Sir Robert Peel in the act of addressing the House. The statue is seven feet in height, and presents an accurate likeness of the great statesman. The attitude is dignified and lifelike. It is a portrait which will repay a visit, and deserves indeed particular attention.

THE FAMILY OF M. THIERS.—The *Corsaire* has the following:—"A gentleman, very well dressed for a dirty man, a few days ago, slipped into our hand a card, of which the following is a fac-simile:—"

MADAME L. RIEPIT,
Sister of
M. A. THIERS,
Ex-President of the Council of Ministers, &c. &c.,
keeps an excellent table *à la mode*
at 3 fr. a head, wine included.
Breakfast at all hours, at 1 fr. 25 c.
44, Rue Basse-du-Rempart, Paris.

It appears that the idea of this card originated with a dozen Montagnards, political enemies of M. Thiers. The gentlemen had promised to patronise the *table d'hôte* of Madame Riepit; but, happily for the sister of the ex-Minister of Louis Philippe, none of them have set their foot in the place, and that explains why the lady has an excellent business.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—SATURDAY, AUGUST 10.

Their Lordships sat on Saturday, for the purpose of forwarding a few bills, in anticipation of the close of the session. Among other measures, the Marlborough House Bill and the Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill were respectively committed; and the Mercantile Marine (No. 2) Bill was read a third time and passed, and the House adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—SATURDAY, AUGUST 10.

The House met at noon. The report of the committee on the Crime and Outrage Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill was brought up, and the third reading fixed for Monday.

The Inspection of Coal-Mines Bill was read a third time and passed, after a brief conversation.

The motion for the committal of the Copyright of Designs Act Amendment Bill gave Colonel Sibthorp the opportunity to repeat, for the last time, his denunciation of the Industrial Exhibition. The bill afterwards went through committee.

The Savings-Banks Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill was carried through three stages in rapid succession, being read a second time, committed, read a third time, and passed.

On the motion of Lord J. RUSSELL, leave was given to bring in a Bill to amend the Church Building Act. The bill was read a first time, in order to its being printed before the recess.—Adjourned at half-past two P.M.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

The Duke of Cambridge's Annuity Bill was read a third time and passed. On the motion for the third reading of the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill.

The Earl of LUCAN moved an amendment, the object of which was to subject persons found carrying away growing crops to summary jurisdiction before the magistrates.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE opposed the amendment.

Their Lordships having divided, there were—

For the amendment—Content ..	..	6
Non-content ..	..	22
Majority against the amendment ..	..	—16

The bill was read a third time and passed.

On the motion for the second reading of the Transfer of the Land Improvement Fund Bill.

The Lord CHANCELLOR pointed out some objections to the bill, and suggested improvements which he trusted would be made in committee.

The bill was read a second time.

The Friendly Societies Bill was also read a second time, after a short discussion.

The Poor Relief Bill was read a third time and passed.

Several other bills on the table were forwarded a stage.—Adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

The House of Commons assembled at three o'clock. On the motion for the third reading of the Crime and Outrage Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill, Mr. G. THOMPSON opposed it, and moved, as an amendment, that it be read a third time that day three months.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS and other hon. members supported the amendment.

The House then divided—

For the third reading ..	..	75
Against it ..	..	21
Majority for the third reading ..	..	—54

The bill was finally read a third time and passed.

The Lough Corrib Improvement Company Compensation Bill, the London Bridge Approaches Fund Bill, and the Union of Liberties with Counties Bill were read a third time and passed.

The Copyright of Designs Act Amendment Bill was considered, as amended, after a protest from Colonel Sibthorp against the encouragement given to foreigners at the expense of British subjects.

The Lords' amendments to the Ecclesiastical Commission Bill were agreed to.

LA PLATA.

In reply to questions put by Mr. G. SMYTHE, Lord PALMERSTON stated that the negotiations which had been going on for years with General Rosas having been concluded, it would not be consistent to produce the various instructions given to the several agents; that it was thought better for the interest of all parties to conclude our treaty with General Rosas without waiting for the result of the negotiations going on with France; that these negotiations were, according to the last accounts, going on satisfactorily; and that there was not the slightest apprehension for the security of British life and property in the Banda Oriental.

BUSINESS OF THE SESSION.

Sir B. HALL called attention to the mode of transacting public business in the House, not, as he said, with the view of passing any political stricture on the Government—which a member of Opposition usually performed—but for the purpose of discussing whether a better economy of time might not be effected in a future session. There never had been a session since the passing of the Reform Act, in which hon. members had evinced a more anxious desire to get fairly through the business of the country; with the exception of the great debate on foreign policy, there had been but one adjourned debate; the speeches were generally shorter than formerly; a sufficient number of members to form a House had assembled, and the counts-out were very few indeed. Up to the time when the last return was made, the House had sat the extraordinary number of 1041 hours, being 149 sittings, which, leaving out the Wednesdays, gave four days per week for twenty-five weeks (exclusive of holidays) of ten and a half hours' sittings. This was independent of committee-work, and was an amount of labour that no man, however strong, could long endure. Last year the House had sat 932 hours, and had passed 89 bills; this year, up to the date of the return, the House had sat 1041 hours, and had passed only 58 bills. The hon. baronet proceeded to particularise the various measures that had been introduced, carried through, given up, delayed, &c., contending that, whenever the Government had shown a determination to carry a bill, they had carried it; and that whenever the Government had evinced irresolution or indecision, they had invariably failed to carry their measure.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that the House conducted an amount of public business that no other assembly in the world ever before conducted. He then proceeded to defend the course he had taken in introducing and forwarding bills, and insisted that the country had every reason to be satisfied with the attention given to public business by the House.

Mr. BRIANT maintained that the working portion of the House had worked harder during the last six months than any other 200 men in the country. The hon. member, referring to Lord Brougham's attack on the committee on salaries, gave the noble and learned Lord a Roland for his Oliver.

Mr. A. STAFFORD attributed a large portion of the delay complained of, and loss of time, to the fact that there were no less than four political parties in the House instead of two.

After a remark from Sir H. WILLOUGHBY, the subject dropped.

CEYLON.

Mr. HUME moved that the evidence taken before the Ceylon committee be printed.

Mr. HAWES opposed the motion, and moved, as an amendment, that the evidence taken before the Ceylon committee be referred to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the members of her Majesty's Government.

After a short discussion, in which Mr. Newdegate, Sir Joshua Walsley, Mr. C. Villiers, Mr. McCullagh, Mr. Bright, and Sir J. W. Hogg took part, the motion was withdrawn and the amendment was agreed to.—Adjourned to Wednesday.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

The London Bridge Approaches Bill was read a second time and committed, on the motion of the Earl of CARLISLE.

The General Board of Health (No. 3) Bill went through committee.

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE.

On the motion of Lord MONTEAGLE, Charles Green and M. A. Gage were declared guilty of breach of privilege for the share they had in the fraudulent petitions presented to the House in reference to the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks Bill; and having been called to the bar and heard in mitigation of punishment, they were ordered to be committed to Newgate for a fortnight.

The Customs Bill, the Stamp Duties Bill, the Securities (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill, and the Assizes (Ireland) Bill were read a third time and passed.

The Earl of RODEN brought under notice several cases of systematic persecution to which certain Protestant clergymen in Ireland had been subjected on account of their religion, and asked the Government whether they had been aware of these persecutions, and whether they had taken any measures to preserve the peace and secure to these persecuted clergymen and their congregations the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty.

The Marquis of LANSDOWNE said there was no doubt that in some places in Ireland, where a system of proselytising had been carried on, individuals had been subjected to considerable and most unjustifiable annoyance. But, when this sort of persecution did not extend to actual violence, it was almost impossible to put a stop to it, or to prevent the expression of popular opinion. Every effort had been made, and would be made, by the Government to secure to all persons in Ireland the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty. The noble Marquis promised to produce papers elucidating this subject, should Lord Roden move for them.

After a few observations from Lord REDESDALE and the Bishop of CHICHESTER, The Earl of RODEN moved for the correspondence, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Marquis of LANSDOWNE, the Crime and Outrage Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill was read a second time, and, the standing orders having been suspended for the purpose, was committed, read a third time, and passed.

The Friendly Societies Bill was committed, on the motion of Lord BEAUFORT, and was then read a third time and passed.

The Savings-Bank (Ireland) Bill was read a second time and committed.

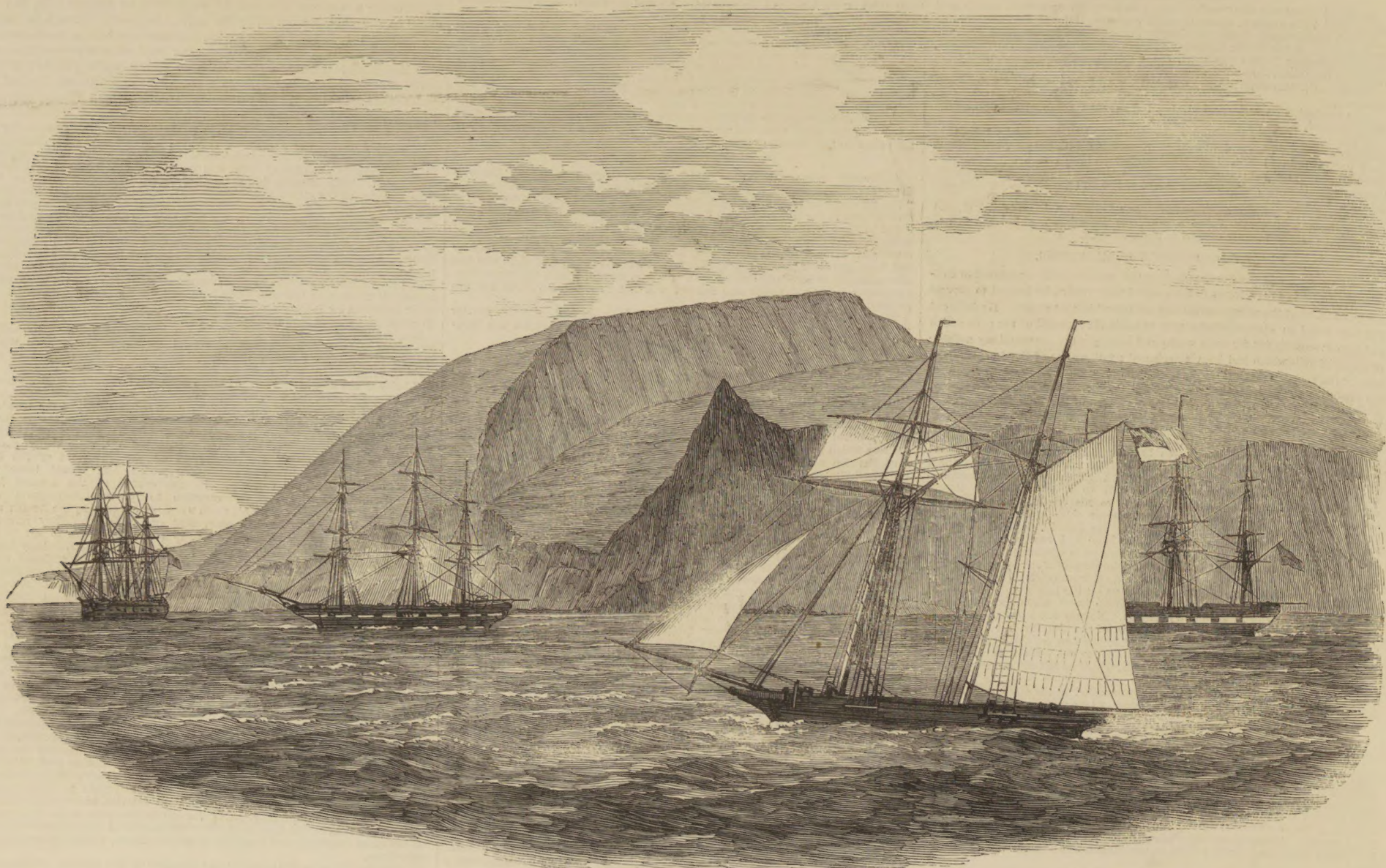
The Transfer of Improvement Loans (Ireland) Bill went through committee. Some other unopposed bills on the table having been forwarded without discussion, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—WEDNESDAY.

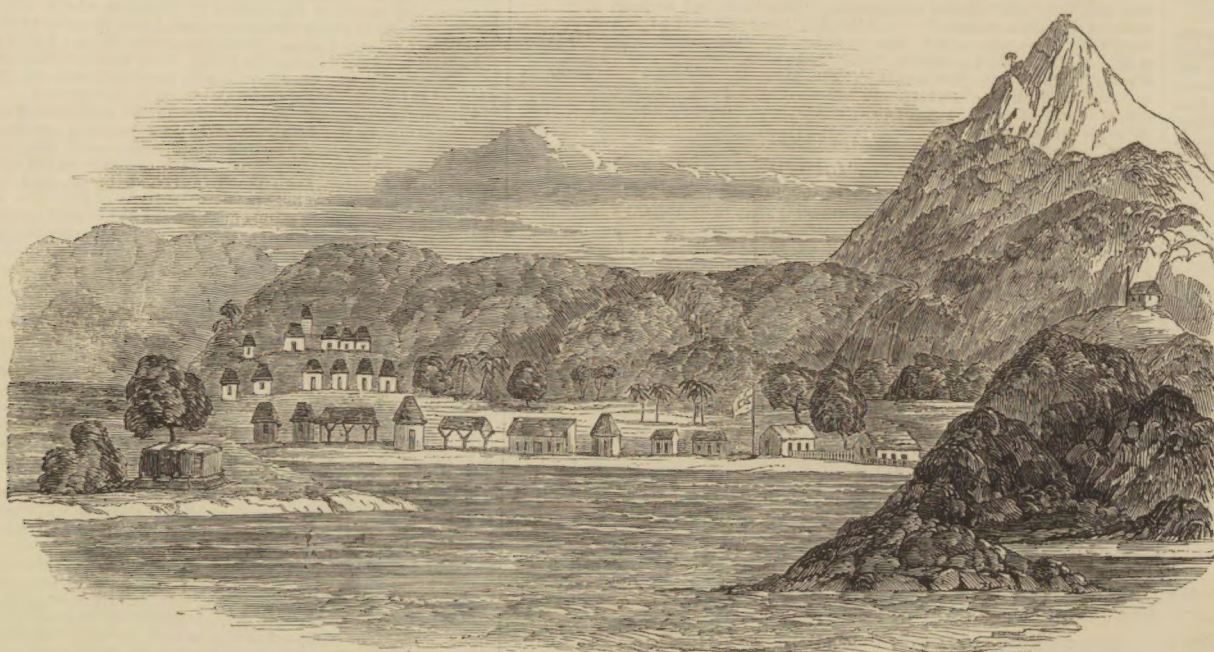
Their Lordships met at a quarter past one, when several papers were laid on the table by Lord EDDISBURY.

THE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

Jenny Lind arrived on Sunday evening at Margate, from Ostend, the *Princess Mary*, Capt. Jenkins, one of the South-Eastern boats.



THE NORTHERNMOST CHINCHA (GUANO) ISLAND.



TIGRE ISLAND.

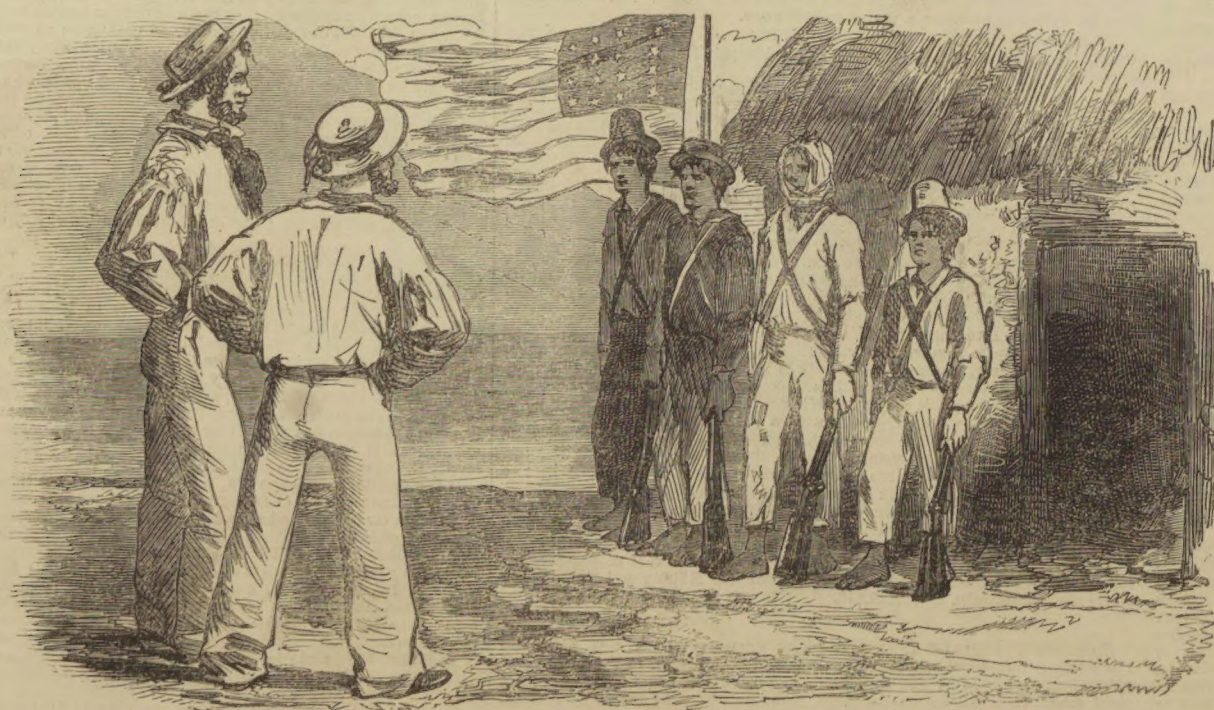
TIGRE ISLAND.

We have been favoured by "a Traveller in Central America" with the accompanying Sketches of the Island of Tigré, in the Gulph of Fonseca, lately taken possession of by Captain Paynter, of her Majesty's steam-vessel *Gorgon*, and since ceded to the United States by the Government of Honduras. This was a formidable point of the Nicaragua dispute, when the "Britishers" promptitude

gave considerable annoyance to the United States; though the matter was afterwards amicably adjusted by Sir Henry Bulwer.

The first of these Sketches shows the interior of the island, with the stockade erected by the officers and crew of the *Gorgon*, and a signal-post, or look-out house, upon one of the hills.

The second Sketch is by no means a caricature picture of the United States garrison upon the Island, with the official stripes and stars fluttering in the breeze; and the "Britishers" regarding the force with real delight.



TIGRE ISLAND.—THE UNITED STATES GARRISON.

THE CHINCHA GUANO ISLANDS.

The Chincha Islands are situated between the 13th and 14th degrees of south latitude, some 120 miles from Callao, the port of Lima, and 12 miles from the port of Pisco, whence labourers are procured for the operations of digging and shipping the guano with which these islands are covered. Guano has been taken from the northernmost island by the native Peruvians, from time immemorial; or, at any rate, it had been taken by them for an indefinite period previous to the discovery of the country by the Spaniards, now more than three centuries ago, and it has continued to be taken by them ever since. Indeed, without guano, the valleys on the coast of Peru could ever have arrived at the highly productive state in which they now are. The quantity, however, required for that strip of coast is a mere bagatelle, which is shown by the slight impression made on the deposit by an abstraction of the article during, perhaps, a period of half a century. Matters on the islands of Chincha now present an altered appearance. In 1840 attention was first drawn to guano for the purposes of agriculture in Europe, and every year since shipments have increased. For the consumption of England, during the present season, 100,000 tons of guano will be taken from the island, and sold at prices varying from £9 5s. to £11 per ton, leaving, we believe, a net product in favour of the Government of Peru of about half a million sterling. The Government, however, do not receive the whole of this amount, one-half of it being mortgaged for the payment of the dividends on the debt owing to this country, and for the gradual redemption of the debt itself. Until last year, the northernmost island only had been touched. For the facility, however, of more rapid shipment, to meet the increasing demand for the article, shoots were arranged on the Middle Island, where vessels are now also loaded. The waters are so quiet around these islands, that vessels are enabled, without danger, to haul close to the cliff, and receive their cargoes through wooden or canvas shoots. In this way, a vessel of 500 tons may be loaded in a couple of days.

As to the quantity of guano existing on these islands, it would seem that it will not be easily exhausted; notwithstanding the increased demand in Europe, and notwithstanding the fact that no addition is now being made to it, or has been made to it, since the Spaniards first entered the Valley of the Rimac. The exposure of a perpendicular surface from the top to the bottom of the deposit, which in some places reaches a depth of 150 feet, shows a uniform appearance of such a character as proves beyond a doubt the antiquity of the deposit. It must have been the work of many thousands of years. It is rather a curious fact, that although there are many islets in the neighbourhood, not one of them have any deposit of guano.

When application was first made to the Peruvian Government, for permission to ship guano to Europe, Captain Peacock, a highly intelligent person, at that time Superintendent of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company on the coast, was requested to state what quantity of guano he thought existed on the three islands; and, after a cursory examination (his other duties not allowing time for anything more), the Captain stated that the quantity might possibly not be far short of 100,000,000 tons. A subsequent minute examination, however, practised by Don Francisco de Rivero (we believe, at present, Peruvian Consul-General in this city), has proved that the quantity may not reach very much over 25,000,000 tons; so that if this country should continue to take 100,000 tons annually, and all other countries, including the coast of Peru, 20,000 tons more—together 120,000 tons—the Chincha Islands will probably be cleared of guano by the year 2058. The middle island, we believe, is the largest, though there is not much difference in the size—varying from four to eight miles in circumference.

These islands partake of the advantage (if it be an advantage) enjoyed only on the coast of Peru and Bolivia, viz. that they are free from rain. Hence this enormous deposit of guano, and hence the superiority in quality which it possesses, as a dressing for the land, over the guano brought from the coast of Africa and Patagonia.

Another enormous deposit of guano has within the last two years been discovered on the coast of Peru, near Casma, which may serve for future ages.

A fire, very destructive in its consequences, broke out in Dublin on Monday morning. It was first discovered in the shop of Mr. Donnelly, the extensive hosier, in Westmoreland-street; and, as it burned with great violence, the inmates were rescued with great difficulty, and the flames having extended to the adjoining premises of the Royal Exchange Insurance Company of London, they were not effectually subdued until the two large houses were completely consumed, and some of the adjoining ones slightly injured. The papers of the Insurance Company were saved, and Mr. Donnelly's concerns were, it is said, amply insured.



THE VILLAGE OF SCHESTEDT, ON THE ROAD FROM SCHLESWIG TO OSTERADE

GENERAL SCHLEPPPEGRELL.

This gallant soldier, who fell in the late battle of Idstadt, on the 25th ult., was the favourite of the Danish army, and contributed chiefly to the total defeat of the Schleswig-Holsteiners in the storming their entrenchments at Fredericia. He was a truly brave man, and met with the death of a hero whilst leading on his gallant soldiers to victory.



GENERAL SCHLEPPPEGRELL, KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF IDSTADT.

The accompanying Portrait is from a drawing by M. Baugnet.

EXPLOSION OF THE AMMUNITION MANUFACTORY, AT RENDSBURG.

The fate that turned the battle of Idstedt against the Holsteiners seems to have pursued them with other and minor calamities. On the morning of the 7th inst., at Rendsburg in the laboratory, in which the ammunition, shells, shrapnels, &c. are prepared, an explosion took place, which destroyed the whole building, shattered the surrounding houses, and caused the loss of several lives.

The Laboratory is situated on the island, in the centre of the town, formed by the two branches of the Eyder, the island itself being a kind of fortress within the main fortifications. The ammunition is always removed, as it is prepared, to the more distant magazines, which are of course fire and shell-proof; and, at the time of the accident, there was no greater quantity of explosive matter in the building than the men were engaged on for the day, otherwise the catastrophe would have been frightful. It is singular that the workmen in the Laboratory itself have escaped uninjured, and the persons killed and wounded were all on the outside. The following details are taken from an official source:—

About noon yesterday a terrific report was heard, that shook the walls of the houses, broke all the glass in the windows throughout the part of the town in the vicinity of the building, and shattered the tiling and slates of the roofs. For some minutes all was consternation, and many imagined that a bombardment of the town had begun, and that a Danish shell must have fallen into their dwellings. Every one rushed from the upper rooms to the ground-floor or into the streets. It was soon ascertained, however, that the laboratory on the Eyder island had exploded, and that some of the houses nearest to it had been partially destroyed or set on fire. The building in which the Danish prisoners are quartered is close to the Laboratory, and the inmates and their guard rushed into the street at the first alarm; some of them were wounded by falling splinters. Two horses in a waggon standing on the Parade fell to the ground, after plunging violently when the explosion took place, and were found dead. General Wilsen immediately took every measure to remove the alarm of the inhabitants. The whole garrison was under arms in five minutes after the accident, and the

fire-engines, which have recently been put in good order and exercised, were in readiness.

The above account of the catastrophe is by the *Times* Correspondent, who has examined the ruins, and in a subsequent letter states:—"A small bridge connected the buildings of the Laboratory with the offices of the artillery establishment, or what may be called the Ordnance-office. The one unfortunately used as the school for the cadets was in the island and immediately joining the Laboratory, an arrangement rather convenient than safe, and to it the killing and maiming 30 of the cadets is to be attributed. The side-walk of the causeway is a large avenue of trees, and they sheltered the houses on the parade considerably, though even there the balls and shots fell from the air in showers, while fragments of shells were driven laterally through the windows. On the island not one stone of any of the buildings is left on another—whole blocks of masonry have been wrenched from the foundations and blown in all directions. The trees of the south embankment, towards the parade, are levelled as by a great hurricane, and lie all one way over the river, the trunks split in pieces and the leaves seared by flame. The whole of the ground within the enclosure is a scene of destruction; brick-work, beams, heaps of cannon-balls, shells, and grenades—all the solid parts of every variety of ammunition are mixed up with and buried in the fragments of the walls and roofs. It is supposed that more bodies are still among the ruins, and some have certainly been blown into the river: pieces of clothing, caps, and shoes are turned up frequently, and other shapeless fragments that are hurried away and covered over from sight; nor does the eye willingly rest on them, it is but too evident what they are.

"Though the roofs of the Artillery offices, the Government House on the Parade, and the church have all sustained damage, the houses in the Alt-Stadt have suffered the most—far more than the dwellings in Dresden and Prague by an artillery fire of some days. There, a few isolated points alone were really much injured; here, every house is more or less shattered; the stoutest, and those that stood in a line with the course the shock appears to have taken, show the least traces of its violence; but some of the older and weaker structures are literally almost shaken to pieces. Hamburg itself can scarcely supply glass and tiles enough for the repairs. Ninety-one bodies had been buried."

SCHESTEDT, FROM THE ROAD TO RENDSBURG.

The accompanying Sketch shows German troops on their retreat from the battle of Idstadt, entering Schestedt.

Schedt is a large village, beautifully situated on the road from Schleswig to Osterade, where a bridge and sluice over the Eyder Canal leads into Holstein. The country here is hilly, and intercepted with fine beech woods, and well adapted for a military stronghold: the Eyder, to the south; Wittensee (a large

lake), to the north; and the fortress of Rendsburg, to the west, allows great advantages to a skilful general.

Schedt has been from the oldest history a place destined for battles: the last was fought on Dec. 10, 1813, when the Danes, driven back from Holstein, gave battle to the combined forces of the allies under Generals Wallmoden and Tottenborn, with great success; in memory of which the Danes erected a monument of granite, surrounded by cannons taken from the enemy at that time, in the village of Schedt.

SWORD FOR THE PRESIDENT OF HAYTI.—Mr. Mole, sword-maker, of Broad-street, Birmingham, has just executed a commission for the Grand Masonic Order of Hayti. It is a magnificent sword, intended to be presented to the President, on his installation to the mysteries of the order of that country. The sword is slightly scimitar-shaped, and is thirty-two inches in length. The blade, which is of the finest steel, is richly ornamented along its whole length with devices in blue and gold, bearing the inscription in French on one side, "To the illustrious F. Faustin Soulouque, President of Hayti," and on the other, "Homage of the Grand Order of Hayti." The hilt is of the most ornate and exquisite workmanship, surmounted by an Imperial crown, and adorned with various Masonic emblems. On the shield are richly chased the arms of Hayti, with the motto, "God, my country, and my sword," "Liberty and Independence." The scabbard is of the richest crimson velvet, most elaborately embroidered with gold, in open-work; and with various devices in most excellent taste. The "loquets" are beautiful specimens of artistic skill, in design as well as execution; and altogether a finer piece of workmanship in this particular branch of Birmingham manufacture has rarely been turned out. The cost of the sword is a hundred guineas.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF AMERICAN "FREEDOM."—A gentleman lately from Missouri relates to us the following incident:—A slave-holder in the southern part of Missouri started for California, taking with him a slave whom he had promised should accompany him to the mines, and then have an opportunity of earning enough to purchase his liberty and that of his wife and children. The master proceeded as far as St. Louis, and there placed him in a slave-pen and sold him for 750 dollars. The agreement between the master and slave was, as the latter related to our informant, that he should accompany him to the mines and work for him eight hours every day, and have the remainder of his time to dig on his own "hook." He was to pay his master 800 dollars for his liberty, 600 for his wife's, and 400 each for his children. "My heart was high," said the negro, as he related his story, "as I thought of the prospect of becoming free and having my wife and children; but think how I felt," and the tears rolled down his cheeks, "when massa sell me to get money to carry him to the gold-mines. Oh! dare'er no God for my massa; he no go to hebbin when he die."—"The story was heartrending," says our friend; but he adds, "It is a scene of everyday life among slave-traders."—*Daily Wisconsin.*



EXPLOSION OF THE LABORATORY, AT RENDSBURG.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, August 18.—Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.
MONDAY, 19, Royal George sunk, 1782.
TUESDAY, 20.—Sun rises 4h. 53m., sets 7h. 11m.
WEDNESDAY, 21.—Blackcock shooting begins.
THURSDAY, 22.—Battle of Bosworth Field, 1485.
FRIDAY, 23.—Wallace executed, 1305.
SATURDAY, 24.—St. Bartholomew.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 24, 1850.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
10 40	11 20	11 55	Tide	0 25	0 50	1 15
1 15	1 35	1 55	2 10	2 30	2 45	3 0
3 20	3 40	4 0	4 15	4 35	4 50	5 10

THE SIXTEENTH VOLUME OF

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS
is NOW READY, elegantly bound in cloth, gilt edges, price 18s.; or, stitched in an ornamental wrapper, price 13s.
The whole of the Volumes, from the commencement, may be had, stitched in an elegant wrapper, price 13s. each; except the First Volume, which is 16s.
A new and beautiful design has been prepared for the Covers for Vol. XVI., which may be had, by order, of any Bookseller or News Agent, price 2s. 6d. each.
Portfolios for keeping the Numbers clear during the six months, price 4s.

ASTLEY'S ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. BATTY.—On MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1850, MAZEPPA and the WILD HORSE; produced with all its original and powerful effects. Mazeppa, Mr. N. T. Hicks. To be followed by an incomparable routine of Batty's Peerless Feats of Equitation in the SCENES of the ARCHA. To conclude with a favourite afterpiece of JACK JUNK. Box-office open from 11 till 4. Stage Manager, Mr. W. West.

ROYAL SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.—On MONDAY, AUG. 19th, and Three following Days, Danson's PANORAMIC VIEW of the ALPS.—Superb MENAGERIE and recent additions: another splendid Elephant.—Promenade Concert, conducted by Mr. Godfrey. Entirely new selection of music, by the best Military Bands in the Kingdom. Brilliant display of Fireworks, by Southby, concluding with a colossal Tableau of Napoleon on Horseback. From David's well-known picture.—Doors open from 9 A.M.; Feeding the Animals at 5; Concert at 6; Passage of the Alps at 8; Fireworks at 9. Admission, 1s.

MR. JOHN PARRY'S NEW ENTERTAINMENT.—LAST NIGHT THIS SEASON.—MR. JOHN PARRY will have the honour of giving his New Entertainment at the MUSIC HALL, Store-street, for the Last Time this Season, on MONDAY EVENING next, AUGUST 19, commencing at Half-past Eight.—Tickets to be had of the principal Music-sellers. Stalls and Private Boxes to be had only of Messrs. OLIVER, 41 and 42, New Bond-street, and at the Hall.

THE HIPPOPOTAMUS, presented by H. H. the Viceroy of Egypt to the Zoological Society of London. Exhibited daily from One to Six o'clock, at their GARDEN in the REGENT'S PARK. The Band of the 1st Life Guards will perform, in the presence of Colonel Hall, every Saturday, at four o'clock. Admission, ONE SHILLING; on Mondays, SIXPENCE.

INDIA OVERLAND MAIL.—DIORAMA GALLERY of ILLUSTRATION, 14, REGENT-STREET.—Additional Picture, MADRAS. A Gigantic MOVING DIORAMA ILLUSTRATING THE ROUTE OF THE OVERLAND MAIL TO INDIA, from Southampton to Madras and Calcutta, is now OPEN DAILY.—Morning, Twelve; Afternoon, Three; Evening, Eight.—Admission, 1s; Stalls, 2s 6d; Reserved Seats, 3s. Doors open half-an-hour before each representation.

THE NILE.—IMPORTANT ADDITIONS to this Panorama.—The Nubian Desert from the second Cataract to Dongola. War Dance by Fire-Light. March of a Caravan by Moonlight. Morning Prayer. The Mummy of a High-Priest is added to the Curiosities. Both banks of the River are shown in the Painting.—EGYPTIAN HALL, Piccadilly, Daily, at Three and Eight.—Admission, 1s; Pitt, 2s; Stalls, 3s. Children and Schools, Half-price.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—During this Week the ALPINE SINGERS from Styria will perform daily at Four, and in the Evenings at Half-past Eight. LECTURE on CHEMISTRY, by J. H. Pepper, Esq. LECTURE by Dr. Bachoffner on VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY. NEW SERIES of DISSOLVING VIEWS daily at Half-past Four, and in the Evenings at a Quarter to Ten. Also a series, exhibiting SCENES in the ARCTIC REGIONS and CEYLON, daily at One o'clock. DIVER and DIVING-BELL, &c.—Admission, 1s; Schools, Half-price.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. A CONSTANT READER.—A would be most correct
MINUS.—We are not aware that any charitable institution receives children for education upon payment for the same.
A CONSTANT READER, Ramsgate.—Messrs. Kilburn and Co., photographers, Regent-street. PLINY MILES, Cardiff, is thanked. A portrait of Millard Filmore, now President of the United States, appeared in our Journal for
IGNORAMUS.—The word "platitude" is not in Johnson's Dictionary, original edition. It is borrowed from the French, and signifies dullness, flatness, or common-place.
DE BOY VOULOIR SERVIR LA REINE.—Address, Mr. Borrow, care of his publisher, Mr. Murray, Albemarle-street. See Ford's "Hand-book of Spain".
RECTORY.—Hamet is accented upon the first syllable
A MEDICAL STUDENT, High Holborn, had better procure a ticket for the reading-room of the British Museum. (See the "Synopsis")
AN OLD SUBSCRIBER is mistaken in supposing that we profess to answer all questions addressed to this Journal. In our Correspondent's case, would it not be better to apply to the work to which admission is sought?
A YOUNG ADVENTURER had better consult the "Handbook to California".
J.—See the "Alphabet of Geology," or, "Geology for Beginners".
D C S.—For "Cestui que Trust," see "Blackstone's Commentaries," Book II, ch. 20. There is no penalty attached by law to the wrongful assumption of a military uniform.
A CORRESPONDENT.—There seems to be no surname attached to Prince Albert's family. His ancestors were in a kingly position when names were first adopted.
BETA.—See Sleight's recently published Militia and Yeomanry List.
AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.—We cannot enter into the particulars hinted at by our Correspondent touching the noble house to which he refers.
GLENCKIE.—The husband of an heiress is not entitled to use her family crest.
W W W.—The crest of Watson, of Yorkshire, is "A griffin's head erased arg., holding in the beak a sprig, leaved, vert".
A B.—Arms were granted, 10th Feb., 1664, to a family named London, then settled at Albye, county Norfolk.
A CORRESPONDENT from Stow informs us that there are no direct descendants of Warren Hastings in existence. Mr. Hastings never had any child, and his estates passed into his sister's family, and are now held principally by Sir C. Imhoff, who resides at Daglesford House, near Stow-on-the-Wold. That mansion has much of interest attached to it. The whole furniture of one room is composed of solid ivory, of the most exquisite workmanship.
A CONSTANT READER.—The coat of arms of an eldest son, during the lifetime of his father and mother, should be simply his paternal ensigns, differentiated by a label. If his mother was an heiress, he is entitled to quarter her arms after her decease.
A M C.—The pay of an Ensign in the Line is five shillings and threepence a day—a sum inadequate to support his position. It is no easy matter to obtain a commission in the army. An applicant's name must be, almost in all cases, for a year or two on the Commander-in-Chief's list. It is necessary, too, for the candidate to be able to pass the necessary examination at the Royal Military College. Apply at the Horse Guards.
COTTEBERT.—The form of the family in question are, "Sa. a cross engr. within a bordure or. Crest: A greyhound's head erased at the neck, arg., pelletie, collared and ringed or." JUSTICE, Hereford.—£750
E R will require a Plate License
J R, Manchester, is liable
J R S, Birmingham.—We cannot inform you

BOOKS, &c. RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.

Songs for Children.—Our Country. 3 vols.—The Churchman's Pulpit.—Life of Sir Robert Peel.—Irving's Astoria.
Music.—The Lady Alice.—Ethereal Voices Speak to Me.

THIS WEEK'S

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

AUGUST 17th, 1850, CONSISTS OF

FORTY PAGES OF LETTER-PRESS

AND

FIFTY ENGRAVINGS,

PRINTED ON THREE SHEETS OF PAPER, FOR ONE SHILLING.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.

THE Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the recent Sabbatarian innovation upon the business of the Post-Office has presented its report to Parliament. After hearing evidence, and going fully into the subject, it has decided in the manner anticipated, and recommended a return to the system so injudiciously interfered with. Whilst rejoicing that common sense, common justice, and Christian charity have again been allowed to regulate this branch of the public service, we cannot avoid expressing a hope that the too easy and nonchalant Ministry has learned a lesson from all the circumstances of the case, and that it will not attempt, in any future difficulty that may arise on a point of public duty, to shirk its own responsibility, or play mischievous experiments with the public patience. All the animosities and all the bitter warfare on points of faith and practice that have been excited by the Sabbatarian discussions of the last few weeks, as well as all the inconvenience, hardship, and loss caused by the stoppage of the post on Sundays, have been gratuitously caused by Lord John Russell, in

yielding, against his own convictions, to the clamour of a small party. While it is to be hoped that public men of all parties will learn a lesson by the progress and result of the changes attempted by the Judaical enthusiasts who wish to legislate for other people's consciences, and to coerce all dissentients by the strong arm of power, it is also to be hoped that those who entertain strong opinions on the Sabbath question will, for the future, be contented with their own freedom, and not seek to make aggressions upon the freedom of other people. No one will compel them to receive a letter on the Sunday, although the old and convenient arrangement has been restored. Their Sabbath liberty, to do exactly as they please, even to the legitimate extent of allowing no beds to be made, nor boots to be cleaned, nor food to be prepared in their houses, remains to them as before; and neither the Legislature nor the people seek to interfere with their conscientious observance, whatever form it may assume. Let them show towards others the same respect and toleration as are shown to them, and there will be a great deal more of practical Christianity in the land than the recent unhappy discussions would seem to show the existence of. It is not wise in them at this period of the world's history to continue their aggressive warfare against the poor, for against the poor, and the poor only, their Sabbath legislation inevitably applies. All their efforts against the rich would fail, though backed by a thousand Parliaments; and the rich man's carriage would be run on the Sunday in spite of the Legislature, though omnibuses, steam-boats, and railway trains were prohibited, just as the rich man would send special messengers with his Sunday letters, though the poor man were deprived of all chance of receiving or sending them, whatever the necessity, and whatever the mercy. We trust that there is now an end of the question, and deprecate most sincerely any further agitation of it.

We have elsewhere passed in review the proceedings of the Session which was closed on Thursday by her Majesty in person. The Speech from the Throne gives, of course, the most favourable version of the Ministerial proceedings, and depicts the Session *en couleur de rose*. When Ministers are their own critics—as in a Royal Speech they always are—what has been done is always well done; and what has been left undone is prudently left unmentioned. No innovation upon this time-honoured practice need ever be expected, and the Royal Speech at the close of the parliamentary year of 1850 is as neat and satisfactory as such a document can be. In a few days London will be emptied of Royalty, the Ministry, and the Legislature. Her Majesty and her Royal Consort will repair to the beautiful seclusion of the Highlands (where may all health and happiness attend them!); the Ministry will forget their hard work and the annoyances of the Session, and seek the fresh air and the rural scenery of the provinces; and members of Parliament will be found in every part of the civilised world but in London and its neighbourhood—on the moors and mountains of the Highlands—at their country seats—in Killarney or Glengarriff—at the salmon-fishings of Norway—in Germany, France, Italy, Egypt, India, the United States—"anywhere, everywhere, out of the place" which, for the last few months, has been their sole and narrow world of thought and action. It is comfortable for them, and for all the dwellers in these islands, that they can enjoy their freedom without fear of being recalled to their posts before the customary time, and that, unlike the unhappy legislators of France, they can depart in peace, without the fear of a *coup d'état* or a revolution in their absence!

The state of France at the present moment is singular. The last vestiges of public freedom have been destroyed, and Frenchmen can neither speak nor write nor print their thoughts. The liberty of the press is at an end; universal suffrage is a vision of the past; and every public functionary or mayor of a town, who either encouraged others to sign, or who himself signed, a petition against the Electoral Law, has been dismissed from his office. The Legislative Assembly has adjourned, leaving a committee of its members to watch over the safety of the capital. Another committee of the Assembly, backed by the public opinion of the provinces, recommends a plan for the transference of the seat of Government from Paris, in case of emergency, so that the whole system of the country shall not be hereafter at the mercy of any knot of desperate adventurers, who may carry the Government offices by a *coup de main*. Their report recommends, in case, at any future time, the Executive Power should be unable, from the operation of a coercive force of revolution in the capital, to exercise its legal action, that the Councils General of the departments should immediately assemble, and name from their own members two commissions to act for the public safety. The first, a military commission, should, in their opinion, meet at the chief town of the military division; and any general of division should have the right to declare a state of siege in the event of revolutionary disturbances. The second or civil commission should assist the first-named in carrying out measures of public safety, and in neutralising the powers usurped by the populace of the capital. "The object of the law," says the report, in conclusion, "is to remove all hope of success from the minds of the agitators. Throughout all France the public mind is returning by degrees to the course calculated to give assurance to those who wish to see the country resume its march towards progress. Those who were at first led astray begin to be tired of the high-sounding phrases of those who worked on their ignorance. Error will pass away; truth will again shine forth; and for nations, as for men, truth is happiness."

While these opinions are circulating throughout France, and while all the liberties ever acquired by the country through long years of toil and struggle have been one by one removed, two manifestations have been got up to influence public opinion in different ways—the one beyond the limits of France, the other within them. The chiefs and leaders of the Legitimists have gone to Wiesbaden, to pay their court to the Count de Chambord—the hope of their party, and the head of the House of Bourbon, and to debate, as is not concealed, the policy to be pursued to bring about a restoration. Louis Napoleon, who plays as great a game, and for as high a stake, has gone on a tour through the provinces, to try the sentiment of the country, to feel the pulse of the labouring classes, and of the voters who returned him to the Presidential chair by so significant and decisive a majority. Hitherto, his progress has been a triumphant one; and it would seem that the old enthusiasm for the name of Bonaparte is not dead, but as living and warm as ever. The President has, according to all present accounts of his progress, revived it where it slept, and increased it where it existed. All parties agree in attaching the utmost importance to the result; and nothing but a *coup d'état* is spoken of. It is evident, from the temper of the public mind, that the time is ripe for a change of some kind. Whatever the change may be, it does not seem likely that it will be a return to Legitimacy or the restoration of the House of Orleans. For awhile the star of the House of Bonaparte seems to be in the ascendant; and Europe looks forward with intense interest to the culmination which is probable;—or to the sudden fall, which seems equally so.

COURT AND HAUT TON.

THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

The Queen and Prince Albert, with the Princess Helena, accompanied by Count de Mensdorff-Pouilly and Count Alphonse de Mensdorff-Pouilly, and attended by the Viscountess Jocelyn, Hon. Flora Macdonald, Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. C. B. Phipps, Major-General Bowles, General Wemyss, and Colonel Bouverie, left Osborne, Isle of Wight, at ten o'clock on Thursday morning, and embarked at Cowes in the *Fairy* Royal yacht, which conveyed the august party to Gosport. Her Majesty, the Prince, and suite, travelled by a special train on the South-Western Railway to the Nine Elms station, and from thence proceeded in three of the Royal carriages, escorted by a party of Light Dragoons, to Buckingham Palace, where they arrived at twelve minutes before two o'clock.

The Queen held a Court and Privy Council at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon, at Buckingham Palace.

The Solicitor-General (Mr. Cockburn) was presented to the Queen, at an audience, by Sir G. Grey, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Majesty was graciously pleased to confer the honour of knighthood upon him.

Mr. Robert Stanford (from the Cape) was presented to her Majesty, at an audience, by Earl Grey, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and had the honour of receiving knighthood from the Queen.

At the Privy Council, the Queen was attended by his Royal Highness the Prince Albert, the Lord President, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Privy Seal, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Secretaries of State for the Home, Foreign, and Colonial Departments, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the First Lord of the Admiralty, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the President of the Board of Control, the Lord Steward, the Master of the Horse, and the Groom of the Stole to the Prince.

Sir John Jervis, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, was, by command of the Queen, sworn of her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council, and took his seat at the Board.

The Queen's Speech, on closing the session of Parliament, this day was arranged and agreed upon.

At the Court, General Jung Bahadoor, on a special mission from his Highness the Rajah of Nepal, had an audience of the Queen, to take leave of her Majesty. The Envoy was accompanied by his brothers, Colonel Jugutt Shumshere Jung and Colonel Dhers Shumshere Jung.

The Earl of Westmorland was presented to the Queen, at an audience, by Viscount Palmerston, G.C.B., her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Bishop of Montreal was presented to her Majesty, at an audience, by Earl Grey, the Queen's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The Duke of Wellington had an audience of the Queen on Thursday.

Lord John Russell and the Marquis of Lansdowne had also audiences of her Majesty on Thursday.

The Queen and Prince Albert, accompanied by Count de Mensdorff-Pouilly and Count Alphonse de Mensdorff-Pouilly, honoured the Haymarket Theatre with their presence on Thursday evening.

Her Majesty and the Prince Consort, accompanied by Count Adolphe Mensdorff, honoured the Royal Italian Opera with their presence on Thursday evening.

Yesterday (Friday) morning, the Court left Buckingham Palace for Osborne.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

The Racing community have plenty of work cut out for them next week, the "Calendar" enumerating no less than seven meetings, of various degrees of importance; York, with its broad sheet and rich engagements, standing A 1. The order of running will be as follows:—Tuesday, Great Yarmouth and Illey; Wednesday, York, Plymouth, Barnet, and Tunbridge Wells; and Thursday, Stirling. The grand feature of the York Meeting will be the race in which Pifford is engaged on Friday: the result will materially affect his position in the St. Leger betting.

In the course of the week, the following Cricket matches will be played:—Monday: At Brighton, the M. C. C. and Ground against County of Sussex; at Leamington, I Zingari and the Gentlemen of Warwickshire; an All England match at Bridport; at the Oval, Surrey Paragon against Clapham; at Titchburn Downs, St. James's, Westminster, v. North Hants; at Shrewsbury, Liverpool v. Salop. Tuesday: At the Oval, the Annual Tradesmen's Match. Wednesday: At the Oval, South London v. Windsor and Eton Home Park; at Copenhagen House, Islington, Albion v. Blackheath Amateur; at Streatham, Clapton v. Streatham. Thursday: At Sevenoaks, M. C. C. and Ground against Sevenoaks Vine; at Woolston (Southampton), Eleven of England v. 14 of Hampshire.

The Aquatic engagements are seven in number; viz. Rotherhithe, Lyme Regis, and Norwich Regattas, on Monday; Teignmouth and Hammersmith and Chiswick Amateur, on Tuesday; Weymouth, on Wednesday; and Torbay, on Friday.

TATTERSALL'S.

THURSDAY.—A very small amount was laid out at the following prices:—

5 to 2 agst Canzon	EBOR HANDICAP.	8 to 1 agst Mark Tappley
6 to 1 Cantab (t)	6 to 1 agst Collingwood	8 to 1 any other
	6 to 5 on Pitsford	
	GREAT YORKSHIRE STAKES.	3 to 1 agst Captain Grant
	ST. LEGER.	
6 to 5 agst Voltigeur	6 to 1 agst Windischgratz	10 to 1 agst Clincher
	DERBY.	
	8 to 1 agst Grecian (t)	

WOLVERHAMPTON RACES.—MONDAY.

The PRODUCE STAKES of 10 sovs each, and 20 added.—Mr. F. Marshall and Alonzo, 1. Mr. Copeland's Lass of Underley, 2.

The WOLVERHAMPTON STAKES of 25 sovs each, with 100 added.—Mr. Meiklam's Roland, 1. Mr. Nicoll's John of Berwick, 2.

TUESDAY.

The CLEVELAND CUP of 100 sovs, with 50 added.—Mr. Clark's Madesafe, 1. Mr. J. B. Minor's Modestia, 2.

The PATSHULL HANDICAP of 15 sovs each, and 30 added.—Mr. Meiklam's Inheritress, 1. Mr. Copeland's Candlewick, 2.

The BILSTON PLATE of £50, added to a free handicap of 5 sovs each.—Mr. Herbert's Spot, 1. Mr. Parr's Clothworker, 2.

The BOROUGH MEMBERS' PLATE of 60 sovs.—Mr. Baylis's Colocynthis (Cheswas), 1; Mr. Fowler's Cosachia, 2.

WEDNESDAY.

The WROTTESELEY STAKES of 10 sovs each, and 30 added.—Captain Liddle's Truth, 1; Mr. Jamieson's Area, 2.

The FOAL STAKES of 10 sovs. each, and 20 added.—Mr. Marshall's Alonzo walked over.

The CONSOLATION STAKES.—Mr. Parr's Clothworker, 1. Mr. Jones's Flirt, 2.

EGLINTON PARK RACES.—TUESDAY.

The TRIAL STAKES of 10 sovs each.—Lord Eglinton's Elthron (Captain Pettat), 1; Mr. W. S. Crawford's Iron Rail, 2.

The STAND PLATE by subs. of 20 sovs each.—Lord Eglinton's Elthron, walked over.

The HUNTERS' STAKES of 5 sovs each.—Lord Waterford's Duc-an-Durras (Colonel Campbell), 1; Mr. Redfern's Smuggler Bill, 2.

The IRVINE CUP of 150 sovs.—Lord Eglinton's Testator (Captain Pettat), 1; Mr. Merry's Brennus, 2.

THAMES BOAT-RACES.

The series of races under this title, as a substitute for the Thames Grand Regatta, were closed on Tuesday. The prizes for competition were a pair of silver cups for tradesmen, and a purse of sovereigns for watermen. Of the former there were four pairs entered; while of the latter eight scullers had been selected by the committee, who had established for themselves great repute as crack scullers.

TRADESMAN'S MATCH.—John Wilcox and Frederick Cox, Putney (White), 1. GREAT SCULLERS' RACE.—Third and final heat.—Thomas Mackinney (Pink), 1. R. Doubledee (Black and White), 0.

Both races were rowed from Putney-bridge to Hammersmith.

THE WESTMINSTER SCHOOL SILVER CHALLENGE SCULLS.

The very interesting aquatic contest for the possession of the Westminster scholars' silver challenge sculls, took place on Monday evening, from Putney to Vauxhall-bridge; Mr. Wright, the holder of the sculls, defeating Mr. Barnes, who, however, suffered under the disadvantage of rowing in a boat to which he was unaccustomed, owing to some accident having befallen his own. Mr. Wright rowed the distance in 31 minutes, which, considering the state of the weather, was capital work.

BLACKWALL REGATTA.

Notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather on Monday, there was a vast assemblage of spectators to witness the announced contest at this place. After a very severe hail-storm of considerable duration, the weather cleared up, and the close of the evening was very fine. The regatta, which included All Saints, Poplar, as well as Blackwall, was in commemoration of the first meeting at Blackwall for the establishment of that invaluable institution, the Waterman's and Lighterman's Asylum; and the awards of victory were a new boat for the first man, and about £15 to be divided in fair proportions amongst the others, commencing with £5 for the second man. The race was with six scullers, in five heats; and the parties contending were H. Cory (Green), George Atkins (Yellow), R. Dent (Light Blue), J. Walland (Red), Charles Pressman (Pink), R. Nowland (Dark Blue).

HUNGERFORD-MARKET REGATTA.—The twenty-eighth annual regatta, for a purse of sovereigns subscribed by the residents of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, took place on Wednesday, and collected a large crowd of spectators, who appeared to enjoy the sport. The race was in two heats, with four scullers. First Heat: Alexander Tough (light blue), 1; George Bancroft (red), 2; Thomas Wortley (pink), 3; Edward McEvoy (green), 0. The distance was from Hungerford-bridge up round a pier-head at Westminster-bridge, down to Waterloo-bridge, and finish at Hungerford. Tough went away with a lead, and kept it: the others made a good race for a long distance. Final Heat: George Bancroft (red), 1; Alexander Tough (light blue), 2; Thomas Wortley (pink), 0. For a short distance it was a smart race, then the winner went away and won easily.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY.—On Saturday last, the yearly meeting of the members of this society took place at their gardens in the Regent's-park, when the chair was taken by Masterton Ure, Esq., in the absence of the Duke of Norfolk, E.M., the President. The different reports of the council, the auditors, and the curator, afforded material evidences of the advance made during the season, and of the increasing prosperity of the institution. The fellows passed a resolution recommending to the council the immediate erection of a building for museum, lecture-room, &c., and a considerable amount of subscriptions was reported during the meeting to have been received for this express object. The following eight fellows were elected members of the council for the ensuing year, in the place of those going out by rotation:—The Duke of Beaufort, Sir E. Kerrison, J. Olive, Esq.; J. Hardwick, Esq.; J. Heywood, Esq., M.P.; the Bishop of Durham, Lord Sondes, and Esq.; J. Heywood, Esq., M.P.; the Bishop of Durham, Lord Sondes, and Esq.; Viscount Hardinge; and the Duke of Norfolk and Edward Marjoribanks, Esq., Viscount Hardinge respectively president and treasurer. The financial statements were re-elected respectively president and treasurer. The financial statements of contained detailed accounts of the increased receipts from the subscriptions of members and the exhibitions of plants and flowers. The total income of the society, from its various sources, during the year ending the 15th ultimo, had amounted to the large sum of £14,180 16s.; and the expenditure to £10,480 6s. 10d.; leaving a balance of £3700 9s. 2d. cash in hand.

THE METROPOLITAN INTERMENTS ACT.—This act, under which Dr. Southwood Smith has been appointed an additional paid member of the Board of Health, will be speedily enforced in "The Metropolitan Burial District," which comprises the city of London, Westminster, Southwark, and numerous parishes set forth in one of the schedules annexed. There are 77 sections in the act, which act is to be executed by the Board of Health. The board may provide new burial-grounds, and her Majesty, on a report of the board or council, may order the discontinuance of interments in churchyards and other places. Regarding the removal of poor persons to reception-houses to be provided, it is enacted, by the 30th section, that the board may at any time, after the passing of the act, appoint medical or other officers who, in the case of deaths within the district, may, "where the persons having the direction of the funeral of the deceased may so desire," cause the body to be decently removed to one of the houses for the reception of the dead. Among the provisions is one under which the Board of Health may "contract" for funerals at fixed charges, so that there are likely to be "three classes" of funerals, according to the means of the parties. The salary of the additional paid member of the Board of Health is not to exceed £1200 a year.

GREAT CENTRAL GAS CONSUMERS' COMPANY.—On Wednesday, an extraordinary general meeting of this company took place at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of authorising the board of directors, under the 40th section of the company's deed of incorporation, to borrow a sum of money not exceeding £25,000 upon mortgage of the company's works, mains, and pipes, at a rate of interest not exceeding five per cent. Mr. Francis Bennock occupied the chair. In opening the proceedings, the chairman stated that the opposition which the company had received had been of a most formidable character; but he was happy to state that they had hitherto surmounted every obstacle, and they now considered the company in perfectly smooth water. He might further state, that they should be in a position by the time mentioned in the contract to supply the public with gas at the rate specified in the deed. Mr. Charles Pearson then read the report of the directors. This report, upon the motion of Mr. Henry Mussett, seconded by Mr. Charles Matthews, having been received and adopted, Mr. Hall moved a resolution to the effect that the sum of £25,000 in one or more sums, be raised by way of loan (if the directors should deem it necessary) for the purposes of the company, upon the security of the premises on which the business is intended to be carried on, or of any other real estate which may belong to the company, and the gas-pipes, machinery, and works thereof; and that, upon the effecting of such security, the particular property to be comprised therein, and the terms and provisions of the deed by which the money shall be raised, shall be fixed and determined by the board of directors. Mr. Larby, a shareholder, seconded the motion, and stated that he thought it was incumbent upon them to do all they could to support the directors. The resolution having been carried unanimously, the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the directors, and to Mr. Charles Pearson, the late chairman.

NEWSVENDERS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—On Tuesday the eighth annual excursion, on behalf of the funds of this society, took place. The boat engaged by the committee for the occasion was the *Vivid*, Captain Styles, and at the appointed time a numerous assemblage of persons went on board, on their way to Rose Cottage, Richmond, where dinner, tea, &c., were provided at a very moderate charge; and for those who provided themselves with refreshments, every accommodation was afforded gratis. An efficient band was engaged for the occasion, and dancing was kept up with great spirit throughout the day. The company seemed highly delighted with their excursion, and the arrangements of the committee appeared to give satisfaction to all present.—On Wednesday, the annual dinner provided by the proprietors of the London newspaper press, for the masters and servants of those persons employed in the sale and distribution of London newspapers, took place at Mr. Hinton's, Highbury Barn Tavern. The boys' dinner took place at two o'clock, and that of the adults and their wives at seven o'clock. The festivities concluded, as usual, by old English games in the extensive grounds, succeeded by a ball and supper.

ST. STEPHEN'S, SOUTHWARK, RAGGED INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.—FANCY BAZAAR.—On Tuesday and Wednesday, a grand sale of ladies' fancy work, or bazaar, took place in the National School-rooms attached to the recently-consecrated church situated in that densely-crowded locality, St. Stephen's square, Kent-street, in aid of the ragged schools, which were established Dec. 29, 1848, under the auspices of several benevolent ladies and gentlemen in that locality, and chiefly through the exertions of the Rev. J. H. Simpson, the honorary secretary; and had since been honoured by having the Bishop of Winchester as President, and, as patrons, the Marquis of Blandford, Lord Ashley, and W. Pritchard, Esq. These schools have produced great results on the moral and religious conduct of the people; and the operation being now much extended, the usefulness will thereby be considerably increased. A very convenient room has been fitted up for the accommodation and comfort of the children, but the funds are, unfortunately, too low for the requisite purpose in a parish where the population is upwards of 5000, mostly poor and unable to provide means for instructing their poorer brethren. On this occasion several of the ladies, supporters of the institution, had contributed various articles of elegant fancy work, and many of a useful character, which were tastefully displayed on the chastely-decorated stalls, which were arranged round the rooms, and were surmounted by festoons of coloured drapery, with floral ornaments. At these miniature shops presided the fair patronesses of the institution, who, throughout the day, plied their assumed avocation with untiring energy and zeal, and were rewarded with considerable success by the numerous assemblage who attended.

FUNERAL OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.—On Thursday morning the mortal remains of the late Vice-Chancellor of England, Sir Lancelot Shadwell, were removed from his late residence, at Barnes Elms Park, Putney, to his final resting-place, Barnes Church, where he was interred in the family vault by the side of his favourite son, whose melancholy death a few months since will be remembered. The funeral was as private as possible, according to the wish of the deceased, the principal mourners being his sons. Dr. Willis, of Barnes, Dr. Scott, and Dr. Paris, his medical attendants, followed, and the carriages of several of the nobility and gentry. The funeral service was performed by the rector of Barnes. The numerous poor in the village, where the lamented deceased had resided for 18 years, will deeply feel his loss, as his benevolence was great.

ALMSHOUSES FOR ST. PANCRAS PARISH.—Following the example set a few years back by the ratepayers of St. Marylebone in the erection of almshouses for decayed householders of good character, a movement has been set on foot for the establishment of a similar institution for the parish of St. Pancras. A committee has been formed, at the head of which is the vicar, the Rev. Thos. Dale, and the churchwardens, Donald Fraser, and Thomas Eld Baker, Esqs. Miss Burdett Coutts has consented to become the lady patroness, and the Marquis of Camden, K.G., Lord Dudley Coutts Stuart, M.P., Sir Benjamin Hall, Bart., M.P., the vice-presidents. Several hundred pounds have already been subscribed, amongst which is a donation of £100 from Michael Prendergast, Esq., an old and highly-respected member of the vestry, upwards of eighty years of age, who has promised that so soon as £3000 shall be collected he will give an additional £100.

THE LONG VACATION.—The Long Vacation has just commenced, and will continue to the 24th of October, so far as law proceedings are concerned, in the superior courts. Persons served with writs of summons must pay within a few days of the termination of the vacation, or they will have to pay some additional pounds for a "declaration." There is no vacation in the County Courts, and on the 1st of October the new act will come into operation, when a creditor will have the "option" of bringing his action for a small sum to £50, or incur great expense in the superior courts. Attorneys and barristers will, under the new act, be entitled to a higher scale of fees than they at present enjoy.

ROBBERIES IN PLACES OF WORSHIP.—There are at present gangs of well-dressed thieves, principally females, carrying on a most profitable system of plunder and a rich harvest in the different places of worship in the metropolis; and the members of families, on attending their churches and chapels, cannot be too careful in securing their purses, watches, &c. For some time past members of the gang have been regular in their attendance at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, in St. George's-fields, and have been very successful in their operations. On Sunday night last, on the occasion of Dr. Wiseman preaching his farewell sermon, when vast crowds were present, they attended in strong force, and succeeded in committing various robberies. One gentleman had his gold watch, worth 25 guineas, detached from his neck chain, and the robbery, he has no doubt, was effected by a well-dressed female who sat and knelt by him during the service. In fact, robberies of this description are becoming so frequent, that, we repeat, persons cannot be too careful in guarding against them.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE RIVER.—On Tuesday evening, between six and seven o'clock, the *Gabul*, a sailing boat of six tons, belonging to Robert Owen, Esq., of Maiden House, New Cross, Greenwich, was beating up the reach from Woolwich, having a party of six gentlemen on board, when, in tacking from the north to the south shores, a sudden gust laid the vessel on her beam ends, and the water poured into the main hatch, almost instantly turning the yacht keel upwards, and immersing the entire party. The accident was witnessed on board the *Catherine Jane* sailing barge, of Rotherhithe, and the captain bore down and succeeded in rescuing those who were clinging to the bowsprit and had got on the keel. Unhappily, two of the party, fine young men, aged respectively 19 and 17, sons of Mr. Robert Greenaway, of Kennington-road, were found to be drowned. The bodies were not recovered.

MEMOIRS OF SIR ROBERT PEEL.—The late Sir Robert Peel has, we understand, left full and specific directions in his will for the early publication of his political memoirs; and has ordered that the profits arising from the publication shall be given to some public institution for the education of the working classes. As already stated, he has confided the task of preparing these memoirs to Lord Mahon and Mr. Cardwell. Their duty will, however, be comparatively light, though delicate, from the admirable and orderly state in which Sir Robert has left all his papers.

RETIREMENT OF DR. WISEMAN (CARDINAL DESIGNATE).—On Sunday morning last, a crowded congregation, including a large number of the Roman Catholic nobility and gentry, assembled at the cathedral of St. George, Westminster Bridge-road, to hear a farewell address from the Right Rev. Nicholas Wiseman, D.D., Vicar Apostolic of the London District, and Bishop of *Melipotamus in Partibus*, previous to his departure for Rome, whither he has been summoned by the Pope, in order that he may receive from his Holiness the dignity of the Cardinalate. Amongst those present were the Earl of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Kenmore, Lords Camoys, Beaumont, Clifford, Petre, Lovat, Stratford, Stourton, Arundel and Surrey, M.P., and Dormer; the Right Hon. R. L. Shell, M.P., Mr. C. Anstey, M.P., Mr. M. J. O'Connell, M.P., and other persons of distinction, accompanied, in most cases, by members of their families. High Mass was celebrated, and after the gospel Dr. Wiseman delivered a discourse, in which he adverted to the progress which Roman Catholicism was making throughout the world, and spoke in high terms of the zealous labours of the clergy in the district with the ecclesiastical supervision of which he had been entrusted. In the evening Dr. Wiseman again preached to a large congregation, amongst whom were several clergymen of the Church of England, who were prevented by professional duties from being present in the morning. Indeed, at both services great interest was excited, the elevation of an Englishman to the high dignity of the Holy Office being a circumstance of such extremely rare occurrence. Dr. Wiseman proceeds immediately to the "eternal city," where it is probable he will remain permanently. The Rev. Dr. Doyle, the senior priest of St. George's Cathedral, and the Rev. Dr. J. H. Newman, priest of the oratory of St. Philip Neri, King William-street, Strand, formerly vicar of Great St. Mary's, Oxford, are spoken of as the probable successors of Dr. Wiseman in the London See.

On Tuesday, a private meeting of the Roman Catholic laity of the London district, convened by the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, was held at the Thatched House Tavern, when an address of congratulation to the Right Rev. Dr. Wiseman, on his intended elevation to the rank of Cardinal, was agreed to, and was unanimously signed. A resolution was also passed for raising, by subscription, the expenditure which will be occasioned to the Bishop by his elevation, and a considerable amount was subscribed at the meeting. In the evening, Dr. Wiseman held a levee, at his residence in Golden-square. Bishops Wareing, Morris, and Naker, the Earl of Fingall, the Right Hon. Richard Lalor Shell, M.P.; R. M. Bellow, Esq., M.P.; Clarkson Stanfield, Esq., R.A.; C. P. Cooper, Esq., Q.C., and a very numerous body of the Roman Catholic clergy and laity, attended. The Earl of Arundel and Surrey was absent on account of illness; and, in the course of the evening, Thomas Barnewell, Esq. (the chairman), accompanied by a numerous deputation, presented the address to Dr. Wiseman, to which the Right Rev. Prelate, who was deeply affected, made a very eloquent reply. The Bishop will arrive in Rome in time to attend the Consistory which is expected to be held about the 10th of September.

WILFUL DESTRUCTION OF THE ORDNANCE MAPS OF THE METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.—A most flagrant act of wilful destruction of a considerable portion of the ordnance map of the metropolis has recently come to the knowledge of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers—a work executed under their superintendence, at a great expense, for drainage purposes. The facts of the case appear to be these:—After the necessary levels and other information had been taken by the officers of the Ordnance, they were regularly deposited at the District Sewers Office, in Hatton-garden, under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Smith, who had been taken as a sergeant from the corps of Sappers and Miners for that purpose. From the information so obtained Mr. Smith ordered the maps to be drawn, preparatory to their being engraved, and several of them, for the more crowded districts of the metropolis, were completed, and sent to the chief office in Greek-street. On the day the maps were so removed, several of the officers of the establishment saw them placed in drawers with great care, with the exception of some that were already in large tin cases. There being some occasion shortly afterwards to refer to them, on opening the drawers they found the greater part of them completely saturated with some powerful liquid—so much so, that a good deal of the work that had been bestowed upon them was completely illegible. An immediate investigation was then made of those in the tin cases, and these appeared to have been injured in a similar manner. The appointment of Mr. Smith to this situation appeared to have given great offence to one or two parties, which had manifested itself on many occasions by a disinclination to obey his instructions. The commissioners, therefore, with a view to a thorough investigation of the facts, placed the matter in the hands of Mr. Field, the active officer of the detective police, who has for some days past been unwearied in his exertions in collecting information, nearly twenty of the officers having been strictly examined as to the circumstance. An analysis of the liquid used for this felonious purpose has been made by Mr. Parry, of the Polytechnic Institution, who declared it to be nitrate of silver.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—Births registered in the week ending August 10: Males, 707; females, 684—total, 1391. Deaths during the same period: Males, 497; females, 500—total, 997. The deaths registered in the four weeks preceding were 731, 863, 898, 917. The increase in the time exceeds 200 a week. The deaths are, however, below the average of the corresponding weeks of 1840-9; after correcting for population, and excluding the corresponding fatal week of 1849, when the deaths were 1909, and 823 persons died of cholera. The corrected average is 1019, while the actual deaths were 997. Small-pox was fatal last week to 15 persons, measles to 13, scarlatina to 21, hooping-cough to 25, typhus to 35, and erysipelas to 4. Nine deaths from childhood under the age of 15, 9 adults between the ages of 15 and 60, and 19 persons of ages over 60. Of cholera, 12 children and three adults died. The number exceeds the deaths from cholera in the corresponding weeks of 1840-5, but is less than those in the corresponding weeks of 1846-9, when 37, 16, 19, and 823 deaths were ascribed to that malady. There is nothing to indicate the presence of an epidemic either in the number of deaths from cholera or in the character of cases recorded below in some detail; but the mortality from diarrhoea is an untoward symptom, which deserves the attention of those who have the power to adopt precautionary measures. Of the 15 fatal cases of cholera recorded, 11 occurred amongst young children 5 years of age, and 4 at more advanced ages. The particulars of each case are as follow:—On the 8th August, at 21, Catherine-street, Limehouse, the son of a beer-shop keeper, "a infantine cholera." In Kennington, at 5, Russell-terrace, the 4th August, a gentleman, aged 69 years, of temperate habits, "Asiatic cholera (10 hours)." On the 3d August, at 8, Elder-street, Nortonfolgate, the daughter of a weaver, aged 5 months, "cholera Anglica (1 week)." At 17, Grundy-street, Poplar, the 5th August, widow of a lodging-house keeper, aged 49 years, "English cholera (6 days)." At 107, Long-lane, St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, the 7th August, a daughter of a journeyman hearth-rug maker, aged 4 years, died of "cholera (10 hours)"; the mother states that the child was in perfect health up to the time of the attack. In St. Mary, Newington, the 7th August, at 53, Paragon-row, the daughter of a labourer, aged 7 years, "English cholera (20 hours)." In the same neighbourhood, at 4, York-buildings, the 8th August, the daughter of a hatter, aged 19 months, "English cholera (18 hours)." At Clark's-buildings, Greenwich, the 3d August, the daughter of a labourer, aged 6 months, "English cholera (6 days)." At 6, Bloomfield-street, Dalston, the 3d August, the son of a commission agent, aged 5 months, "infantile cholera (2 days), convulsions (5 hours)." On the 5th August, at 5, Hutchison's Avenue, Aldgate, the son of a labourer, aged 8 months, "simple diarrhoea (7 days), choleraic diarrhoea." At 1, East-street, Finsbury-market, Shoreditch, the son of a labourer, aged 4 years, "cholera maligna (12 hours)." Mr. Earles, the registrar, states that "the child was previously ill for seven weeks from intermittent fever; the neighbourhood is well drained and healthy." On the 4th August, at 97, Old-street road, Shoreditch, the son of a greengrocer, aged 4 months, "sporadic cholera (4 days), convulsions (4 hours)"; this house is imperfectly drained. On the 9th August, at 46, Carnaby-street, Golden-square, the daughter of a tailor, aged 3 years, "English cholera (24 hours)." At 34, Lucas-street, St. George-in-the-East, 5th August, the son of a patten maker, aged 11 months, "English cholera with convulsions (16 hours)." On the 31st July, at High-street, Bromley, a grocer, aged 54 years, "broken constitution, English cholera (4 days)." **METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.**—The barometer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, was low during the week; the corrected average reading was 29.651 inches. The mean temperature of the air in the shade was 64.2 degrees; or 2.7 degrees above the average temperature of the week. The temperature of the Thames ranged from 63 degrees to 68 degrees. The air was dry, showed a little electricity, and passed over the Observatory at the average rate of 120 miles a day.

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH AUSTRALIA.—A memorial, of which a copy is subjoined, has just been presented to the Treasury, signed by nearly all the leading merchants, bankers, and manufacturers of Birmingham, earnestly recommending the adoption of the Cape of Good Hope route in the establishment of steam postal communication with Australia. The memorial was presented by Mr. Scholefield, the member for Birmingham, accompanied by a letter strongly recommending the route.

MEMORIAL—TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

The Memorial of the undersigned Bankers, Merchants, Manufacturers, and others resident in Birmingham,

Humbly sheweth—That your memorialists, being deeply impressed with the importance of a more rapid intercourse than we at present possess with our Australian and other southern and eastern colonies, beg most respectfully to urge upon the serious consideration of your Lordships the great importance of the establishment of a system of postal communication with those settlements.

That your memorialists would further urgently recommend the adoption by your Lordships of the route via the Cape of Good Hope, feeling convinced that, in addition to its affording a communication equally rapid and regular with any other, it will open out and promote a great extension of passenger and commercial traffic.

That in the opinion of your memorialists a regular steam communication by the route in question would prove highly advantageous, not only to the Australian colonies but also to the settlements on the western coast of Africa, to the Cape of Good Hope, Port Elizabeth, Natal, and the Mauritius; and by the increased rapidity of communication with the several settlements, your memorialists believe that the manufacturing and mercantile interests of this important district would be materially promoted.

May it, therefore, please your Lordships to take this memorial into your favourable consideration.

And your memorialists will ever pray, &c.

MURDER IN GRAVESEND.

The excitement caused in Gravesend by the terrible fire of Sunday last had scarcely subsided, when the whole district has again been excited by the perpetration of a horrible murder.

The following evidence was taken on Wednesday evening at the Town-hall, where the wretched murderess was brought up for examination. Her name is Amelia Georgiana Snorswell, aged twenty years, and she resided with her mother, in Parrock-street, Gravesend.

The facts will be gathered from the following evidence:—

Sarah Cooper, who stated that she was the wife of George Cooper, and resided in Eden-court, Gravesend, said, The prisoner at the bar was her sister. On Tuesday night she was on a visit at her house. At that time she had a child, aged thirteen months, named Alice, alive. About ten minutes before nine o'clock the child was put to bed, and shortly afterwards the prisoner went into the bedroom, but came out again. She then laid the cloth for supper, and went out again for three or four minutes, and when she came back witness saw her with a knife covered with blood in her hand. She held the knife forward, and cried out, "See, I have killed her now." Witness at once became afraid that she had killed one of the two children that were sleeping in the bed-room. She, therefore, took a candle into the room, and found the infant on the bed, with its throat cut, and quite dead. She immediately called up Mrs. Mills, her landlady, who, on seeing what her sister had done, ran to fetch her mother, and also Mr. Ridge, a surgeon. Her mother arrived in a few minutes' time, and she held the prisoner's hands, lest she should do any further mischief. She cried out, "I have killed my child, and made it happy." After that she said, "Give me my child." During the last few days the prisoner has complained of pains in her head, and has appeared very low-spirited. About five or six weeks since, the prisoner, without the least provocation whatever, struck her mother a blow on the head with a poker; notwithstanding, she had no apprehension that the prisoner intended to do any harm to the children. She was very fond of the deceased, and used to nurse it and play with it. The prisoner was very religiously inclined, and used to go regularly to a place of worship. Mrs. Mills had once told her that she did not think the prisoner was in her right senses.

The prisoner was asked whether she had any questions to put to the last witness, and merely shook her head.

Mr. Ridge, surgeon, said that on Tuesday night he was called to see the deceased and found life extinct. There was a wound in the throat, which was the cause of death. He believed that the prisoner, at the time she killed the child, was labouring under temporary mental aberration.

The prisoner was duly cautioned by the bench, and then asked if she had any thing to say, when she replied, "Not unless you wish it;" but she afterwards said, "I acknowledge that I have killed Alice."

The prisoner was then fully committed to take her trial at the next assizes for wilful murder.

CONFLAGRATION AT GRAVESEND.

A most extensive and destructive fire occurred in Gravesend on Sunday morning last, at about two o'clock. The fire was first observed in the house of Mr. J. Adlington, a grocer and tea-dealer, No. 65, in the High-street, nearly facing the Town Hall, and it was at that time very inconsiderable; but in the absence of a supply of water it made rapid progress, and before the residents became aware of its existence the back of their dwellings in Church-alley, High-street, and Princes-street were cracking with the intense heat.

The High-street is, considering it is the principal place of business in the town, an exceedingly narrow thoroughfare, not sufficiently wide in any part for two vehicles to pass without inconvenience. At the back of this street was Princes-street, whilst West-street bounded the northern end, and Church-alley ran at the southern extremity of the White Harn Inn. The whole clump of buildings standing within these boundaries was about 50 or 60, and covered probably a couple of acres of ground. Many of these, notwithstanding that they were three or four stories high, and contained goods of some thousand pounds value, were constructed principally of timber, so that the officers of police became aware that, unless strenuous exertions were made, some of the inhabitants must lose their lives. They therefore aroused the whole of the occupants of those premises. In a very short space of time the town engines, together with those of the Custom House, and of Mr. Plane's (the Mayor) brewery, were on the spot; and a supply of water from the mains of the water-works having been promptly got, every effort was made to subdue the fire, which by this time had extended itself to the house adjoining Mr. Adlington's. The wind blew rather fresh from the south-west, sweeping the flames over the houses down the High-street towards the Town-pier. The engines, though well worked and abundantly supplied with water, gained no influence over the fire, which had at about three o'clock extended to seven houses on that (the western) side of the street. The engine from Tilbury Fort, accompanied by a body of troops, having now arrived, more vigorous, but equally unavailing efforts were made to stay the further progress of the fire, which had, at soon after three o'clock, crossed the street, seizing first upon the extensive premises of Mr. Young, butcher. From there the flames spread to the houses all down the eastern side of the street, including the County Bank, the Savings-Bank, the Kent Tavern, Brinchley's Distillery, &c. The High-street, on both sides from the Town-hall downwards, to within a short distance of the Town Pier, was at four o'clock completely enveloped in flames, which, when they involved the premises of Mr. Troughton, tallow-chandler, and an oil-shop and chemist's shop contiguous to it, formed an awful conflagration. At this time, all hope of preserving a single house between the Town-hall and the pier was abandoned by all parties, notwithstanding that the Dartford and Rochester engines had arrived, and a prodigious volume of water was discharged on the whole line of burning houses on both sides of the street. There was, fortunately, sufficient time to save the cash-boxes and the securities and other documents of the County and Savings Banks, which were taken to the Custom-house, all the officers of which were actively engaged, with the military, police, and townspeople, in working the engines. Comparatively little property was saved from the fire, which, between five and six o'clock, had completely destroyed twenty-four houses (as the annexed list will show) on both sides of High-street, independently of several houses in Princes-street and the courts leading out of High-street, between the Town-hall and the Pier. A telegraphic communication from the railway station, at the instance of the Mayor (Mr. Plane), having been made to the London-bridge station, a body of the Fire Brigade and two engines were as soon as possible despatched from London, and arrived in Gravesend at about twenty minutes to seven o'clock. The work of destruction was then done, the fire having been provisionally stayed in its progress down the High-street, and extending backwards to Princes-street, by a change of wind to the north and westward at six o'clock. The assistance of the Brigade, with their powerful engines and practised skill, was, however, effectual in suppressing the fire still bursting forth from the mighty mass of ruins—all that remained of the property destroyed.

There is much suspicion entertained respecting the origin of the fire, which, it is thought, began not in the house of Adlington, but in a cigar shop, next door, kept by a man named Reed.

The general body of tradespeople and inhabitants of the town are loud in their complaints against the corporation in not having an efficient corps of firemen and engines established, after the warning they received by the two previous fires, which it will be recollected consumed the greater part of the lower portion of Gravesend.

The largest building among the premises burnt down was used as the London and County Bank. It occupied much ground on the east side of High-street, close to the Town-hall, and with its contents was insured for £10,000. The clerks succeeded in saving the whole of the books, cash, and papers belonging to the bank.

It was supposed that a man named Vallance had lost his life during the raging of the fire by the floors of one of the houses in High-street falling on him. We are happy to say it is not so; the police have ascertained that he escaped.

It is the general opinion of the inhabitants in the town, that had the corporation telegraphed for the London engines when the fire was crossing High-street, instead of waiting three hours, a very large portion of the property would have been preserved.

The loss, as estimated by the surveyors of the various London insurance companies, is £90,000. The offices that will principally suffer are the following, and the amounts are reported thus:—Kent Fire-office, £10,000; Globe, £8000; Royal Exchange, £8000; Alliance, £8000; Norwich Union, £7000; Phoenix, £7000; Mutual, £2000; West of England, £5000; Star, £3000; Commercial, £2000. Total, £65,000.

Subjoined is a copy of Mr. Braidwood's official report of the damage done:—

Sunday, August 11, 1850.—Called by an electric telegraph message to a fire in High-street, Gravesend, which did the following damage:—No. 65, High-street, J. Adlington, grocer, burned down. No. 66, M. Reed, tobacconist, burned down. No. 67, T. C. Barber, currier, totally destroyed. No. 68, burned down. No. 69, E. and M. Gregory, drapers, totally consumed. No. 70, unoccupied, burned down. Nos. 71 and 72, J. T. Fenwick, clothier, burned down. No. 73, Mr. C. Day, surgeon, premises partially destroyed. No. 74, W. Saunders, surgeon, seriously damaged. No. 64, Messrs. Troughton and Co., tallow-chandlers, premises destroyed. No. 63, Mr. Henry Creed, victualler (Parr's Head), burned down. No. 62, J. H. Hatton, draper, &c., totally consumed. No. 61, W. Newman, stationer, burned down. No. 60, R. Jerrey, eating-house keeper, seriously damaged. No. 22, R. Culley, refreshment rooms, damaged. No. 21, C. Spenser, chemist, burned down. No. 20, J. Temple, tavern keeper, totally destroyed. No. 19, C. Lipscombe, perfumer, burned down. No. 18, L. Young, butcher, burned down. No. 17, the London and County Bank, totally consumed. High-street Distillery, J. Benchley, dwelling-house, burned down, roof of distillery broken, and considerable damage by water and removal. No. 16, J. B. May, bootmaker, burned down. No. 15, Thomas Butcher, confectioner, burned down. No. 14, Mr. H. Newman, stationer, burned down. No. 13, unoccupied, destroyed. No. 12, W. Croft, grocer, seriously damaged. No. 1, Church-alley, let out in tenements, burned down. Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5, similar damage. No. 1, Princes-street, C. Yomvin, pipe-maker, great damage by removal, &c. No. 2, ditto, H. Stocks, bricklayer, similar damage. Nos. 4 and 4½, ditto, Mr. Bell, roof destroyed; rest of building and contents damaged. No. 5, J. Perry, poulterer, burned down. No. 29, Messrs. Peters, smith, front severely scorched. Swan-yard, let out in tenements, buildings burned down. H. Eleing, stable-keeper, great damage to premises by fire and water.

On Wednesday, an inquiry of some hours' duration was held at the Town Hall, for the purpose of ascertaining how the fire originated. The following



RUINS OF THE GREAT FIRE AT GRAVESEND.—HIGH-STREET.—LOOKING NORTH.

magistrates conducted the investigation; namely, Mr. Plane (the mayor), and Messrs. Oakes, Spencer, Ridge, Tickner, Troughton, and Ditchburn. After hearing a good deal of evidence as to the origin of the fire, the Bench decided that the present inquiry would prevent the expense of a coroner's inquest, and the proceedings terminated, no conclusion being formed as to the origin of the fire.



RUINS OF THE GREAT FIRE AT GRAVESEND.—LOOKING WEST.



PICTURE GALLERY OF THE LATE KING OF HOLLAND, IN THE PALACE OF THE HAGUE.

SALE OF THE LATE KING OF HOLLAND'S PICTURES, &c., AT THE HAGUE.

THE long-announced sale of the rich Gallery of the late King William II. commenced on Monday last, and has excited an unprecedented interest throughout Europe; and since it has been open for inspection, the Hague has had a succession of visitors from almost every country. Many transatlantic amateurs have also visited Holland on purpose to see the King's collections, and make purchases, and carry away some of the Royal treasures to New York, Boston, and other parts of the Western hemisphere.

The late King of Holland, William II., was a man of refined taste, and of considerable judgment in works of art. He purchased liberally, whenever opportunities offered of acquiring fine works of the old masters, whether of the Italian, Flemish, or Dutch schools; and he was a generous patron of living artists, as he has abundantly manifested by the large number of their works which now appear in his collection to be sold. While he was Prince of Orange, and before his Court was removed from Brussels, he had formed a gallery of the higher order of paintings, among which were many of the rarest and finest works of the early Flemish and Dutch masters, and some fine pictures of the Italian schools also. These were all brought to the Hague, and he was constantly making additions up to the period of his death.

The catalogue of the King's Gallery of Paintings is divided into two classes—Ancient and Modern. The former consists of 192 pictures, and the latter of 160, making together 352 paintings. Besides these, the Royal Gallery contains 26 fine objects in sculpture, principally statues and busts, by artists of his own country; and, though but small, a very rich and valuable collection of cartoons and drawings. These, also, are divided into two classes—Ancient and Modern; the Ancient comprising 342 lots, and the Modern 28; in all, 370. The ancient drawings are, for the most part, of the Italian schools, and the rest are chiefly by Rubens, Vandyke, and their followers. Almost all of the most rare and valuable of these works were collected, at a vast expense, by the late Sir Thomas

Lawrence; and on an occasion of the late King's visiting England, he purchased them of Sir Thomas's representatives. It was deeply to be regretted that these beautiful and rare specimens of art were ever allowed to leave England; for among them are a great many studies and designs of Raphael, Correggio, Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Luini, del Sarto, Frater Bartolomeo del Vaga, Giulio Romano, Sebastian del Piombo, Guido, Domenichini, Tintoretto, Caravaggio, Guercino, &c., some of their finest works. As the opportunity once more offers, by their being so unexpectedly again to be sold, it is to be hoped that the English Government will not neglect it, and that they will secure at least all the most valuable of these drawings, to place in the National Gallery.

The view of these Royal collections was closed on Friday, preparatory to the sale, which commenced on Monday for the paintings, to occupy five clear days, concluding on Friday, the 16th; and on Monday, the 19th, the sale will be continued, for the Drawings and sculpture, until they are all sold.

The ancient paintings are classed in the catalogue, according to their several schools, in the following order:—

1. The ancient Flemish school, consisting of fifty-four pictures, many of which are most rare and curious works, beautifully preserved.
2. The school of Bruges, extending from lot 55 to 81, among which are several very fine pictures by Rubens, Vandyke, Teniers, &c., which will be sold on Friday next.
3. The school of Holland contains twenty-five works, commencing at No. 82 and ending with 107. These comprise several splendid works by Rembrandt, Wouvermans, Ruysdael, Hobbima, Van de Velde, Both, Bakhuysen, Jan Steen, Wenix, Huysum, &c. They are comprised in Monday's sale.
4. The German school, which contains only one picture—an extremely beautiful composition, by Albert Durer.
5. The French school contains seven, by Claude, Gaspar Poussin, Armand, &c., which also were into the first day's sale.
6. The Spanish School, consisting of twenty-four pictures, several of them of high quality, by Murillo, Velasquez, Navarette, and Ribeira.
7. The schools of Italy, extending from No. 140 to 192, thus comprising fifty-two works of the principal masters of that country; among which may be particularly noted compositions by Raphael, Perugino, Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, S. del Piombo, del Sarto, Giulio Romano, Luini, Saint Marco, Canaletti, Carracci, Guido, Domenichino, Palma, Moroni, Guercino, Carlo Dolci, &c. These will conclude the sale of the pictures on Friday.

The modern pictures were to be sold on Tuesday and on Thursday, and entirely to occupy both of those days.

The first day's sale was attended by a vast concourse of the most distinguished amateurs from all countries, and also by the most respectable classes of dealers. The large hall in the palace was most conveniently fitted up on Saturday. No one being admitted without paying for a ticket, had a good effect, and the room was not uncomfortably full.

Among the lots were:—

DUTCH SCHOOL.

No. 82. Van der Helst.—A family of distinction elegantly disposed in a garden, with mountainous scenery in background. A very fine gallery picture. 11,900 florins.

No. 83. Van der Helst.—The painter himself, who is taking the portrait of his brother, who sits with a violoncello between his knees. Two other artists sit at a table. One of his finest productions. 800 florins.

No. 90. Rembrandt. "Owner of the Vineyard paying his Labourers."—A very grand composition, signed "Rembrandt fecit, 1630." 3500 florins: M. Van Cleef, a distinguished collector.

No. 92. Wouvermans. "St. Hubert."—He is descending from a grey horse in a forest scene. A stag with a cross fixed between his horns miraculously appears before him. Five dogs repose near, and huntsmen in the distance. Very splendid composition.

No. 93. J. and A. Both.—A warm and brilliant Italian landscape, with figures, cascade, &c. 10,400 florins; for the Brussels Gallery.

No. 94. J. Ruysdael and A. Van de Velde.—A grand mountainous landscape, through which winds a stream. In foreground to the left a wooden bridge conducts to a road along the river side. A herdsman driving cattle and sheep is directing two cavaliers on their route. A magnificent picture. Figures by Van de Velde. 12,900 florins; for the Brussels Gallery.

No. 98. Hobbima. "The Water-Mill."—This celebrated landscape has long been esteemed as the *chef-d'œuvre* of the artist. The scene is charming. Shaded by majestic trees stands the lonely mill, as a central object. Towards the left is a prairie, with a road conducting to it over a wooden bridge. Some well-placed figures give it life, and the effect of the sunshine on the horizon produces a union of natural beauties. Not put up.

FLEMISH SCHOOL.

No. 49. Lambert Lombard. "A Vision."—An allegorical subject, in an agreeable landscape. Rose: 1900 florins.

No. 51. Lambert Lombard.—A very extraordinary picture divided into two parts. On the left, a shipwreck; on the right, a town afflicted with the plague. A procession and the appearance of two angels seem to indicate that the wrath of Heaven is appeased. These two are curious specimens of art in the middle age. 1850 florins.

No. 52. Martin Schoon. "Death of the Virgin."—Represented as about to

expire. The twelve Apostles surround the bed, and administer the last consolation of religion. Colouring extremely brilliant. 2950 florins.

SCHOOL OF BRUGES.

No. 109. Albert Durer. "Saint Hubert."—A most exquisitely finished little picture, in beautiful preservation. 3800 florins.

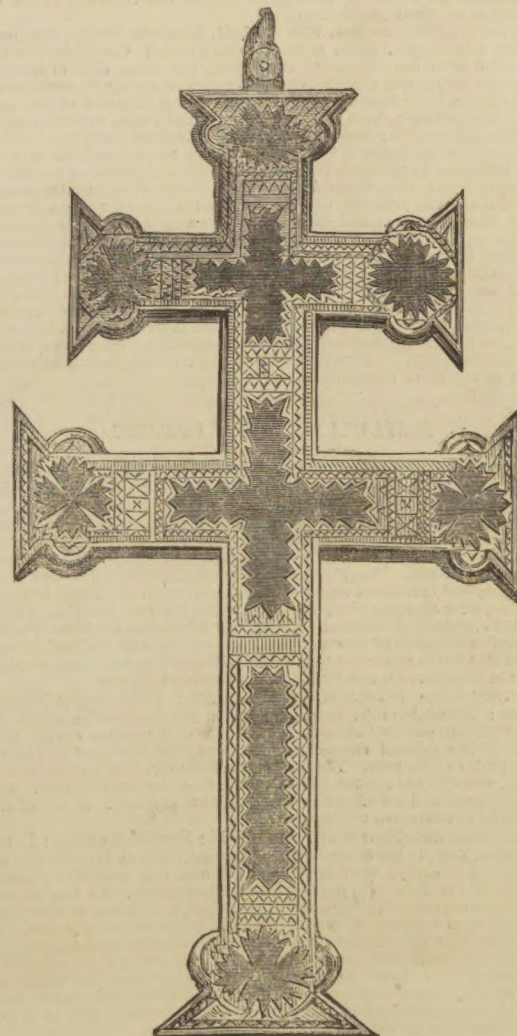
FRENCH SCHOOL.

No. 111. Claude Gelée. "A Sea-Port."—A classic scene on the coast of the Mediterranean, adorned with architecture, figures, vessels, &c. 8600 florins.

No. 114. Attributed to Claude Gelée. "The Departure of the Queen of Saba."—A magnificent display of classic architecture, extending to a port with majestic ships, wholly illuminated by the setting sun. A noble composition. 2500 florins.

ANCIENT CROSS.

THE accompanying Illustration represents the reverse of an ancient Cross or reliquary found in Ireland. This curious specimen of ancient art was discovered



REVERSE OF AN ANCIENT CROSS FOUND AT CORK.



THE LATE SIR LANCELOT SHADWELL, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

In a highly sculptured stone coffin in a churchyard near Cork, containing also the usual reliques. The obverse of the Cross gives a representation of the Crucifixion, with "INRI" over the head of the Saviour; on the limbs of the Cross are the first words of the penitent thief, "DOMINE MEMENTO MEI." Three skeletons were in the coffin: the Cross was lying on the breast of one; the head of another was lying at the feet, as if decapitated during life. There was nothing remarkable about the third skeleton. The Cross is archiepiscopal, and is ascribed by the antiquaries of Cork to a very early period: it is of bronze, and was originally gilt. It is now in the possession of the Rev. Dr. Neligan, Rector of St. Mary Shandon.

The Engraving is from a nicely-pencilled drawing by a lady.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS RECENTLY DECEASED.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR LANCELOT SHADWELL, VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND.

SIR LANCELOT SHADWELL died on the 10th inst., at his residence, Barn Elms, Putney. The death of so good and so able a man will be severely felt. For nearly a quarter of a century he presided over a branch of the Court of Chancery, and, throughout an extended period, secured the high respect of the profession by the soundness and impartiality of his judgment, the regularity of his attendance, and his untiring assiduity and zeal.

Sir Lancelot was born in 1779, the son of Lancelot Shadwell, Esq., an eminent barrister of his day, by Elizabeth Whitmore, his wife, aunt of William Wolryche Whitmore, Esq., of Dudmaston, late M.P. for Wolverhampton. He received his education at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated as 7th Wrangler; was called to the Bar, by the Hon. Society of Lincoln's Inn, in 1803; and became a King's Counsel in 1821. In 1826 he obtained a seat in Parliament for Mrs. Lawrence's borough of Ripon, and in 1827 was made Vice-Chancellor of England. On two occasions Sir Lancelot acted as one of the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal.

He was twice married: first, in 1805, to a sister of Sir John Richardson; and secondly, in 1816, to the daughter and co-heir of Captain Locke; and leaves several children. Paternally, the deceased gentleman descended from an old Staffordshire family; and, maternally, from the very ancient and eminent Shropshire house of Whitmore of Apley.

WINDHAM-HENRY, EARL OF DUNRAVEN.

THE Earl of Dunraven died on the 6th inst., at Adare Manor, county Limerick, aged 67. He was one of the best resident landlords, and will be deeply regretted in the locality in which he had so long lived. His was one of the very few families in the Irish Peerage which can claim a national descent, being derived, it is recorded, from Quin, the grandson of "Con cead Caha," or Con of the Hundred Battles, Monarch of Ireland in the second century.

In modern times, the Quins of Adare have held for a series of generations a distinguished position among the leading houses of the county of Limerick, and were raised to the Peerage in 1800, when Sir Valentine Richard Quin, Bart., was created Baron Adare. He subsequently became Viscount Mountearl; and finally, in 1822, Earl of Dunraven. His Lordship was twice married: by Margaret-Mary, his second wife, sister of the late Colonel Edmund Coghlan, Governor of Chester, and widow of Colonel Arthur Blennerhassett, of Blennerhassett, he had no child; but by Frances, his first wife, daughter of Stephen, first Earl of Ilchester, he was father of four children, of whom the eldest son, Windham Henry Earl of Dunraven, was the nobleman whose death we record. He married, 27th December, 1810, Caroline, daughter and sole heir of the late Thomas Wyndham, Esq., of Dunraven Castle, co. Glamorgan (in consequence of which marriage he took the additional surname of Wyndham), and has left by her two sons—Edwin Richard Wyndham Viscount Adare, now third Earl of Dunraven; Windham Henry, born 2d Nov., 1829; and one daughter, Anna-Maria-Charlotte Wyndham, wife of W. J. Monsell, Esq., of Tervoe, co. Limerick, M.P.

Lord Dunraven was one of the Irish representative Peers, and also Custos Rotulorum of the county of Limerick.

JOB WALDEN HANMER, ESQ.

This respected gentleman, a member of the English bar, died on the 2nd inst., at his chambers, Lincoln's-inn, aged sixty-eight. He was second son of the late Sir Thomas Hanmer, Bart., of Hanmer, co. Flint, by Margaret his wife, eldest daughter and co-heir of George Kenyon, Esq., of Peel, co. Lancaster. Among the family's collateral ancestors was the famous Sir Thomas Hanmer, Speaker of the House of Commons in 1712, who was distinguished alike as a politician and a man of letters, of which latter character his well-known edition of "Shakspeare" remains the best memorial.

THE HON. CHARLES EWAN LAW, M.P., RECORDER OF LONDON.

THE death of the learned and estimable Recorder occurred somewhat suddenly, on the morning of the 13th inst., at his residence in Eaton-place. He had been ailing for a few days previously, but his illness had not excited alarm in his family.

Mr. Law was born June 14, 1792, the second son of Edward Lord Ellenborough, the celebrated Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, and had, consequently, completed his 58th year. Early destined for the profession of the law, he was called to the Bar as soon as his age permitted, and joined the Oxford Circuit, on which he gained a fair share of practice, and obtained eventually, in 1829, a silk gown. In 1830 he was chosen Common-Serjeant, and continued to perform the duties of that office until 1833, when he was elected to the more dignified position of Recorder of the City of London. In 1835, Mr. Law succeeded Sir Charles Manners Sutton (then created Viscount Canterbury) in the representation of the University of Cambridge, and was returned by the same constituency at all the elections since.

The learned Recorder married, May 22, 1811, Elizabeth Sophia, daughter of Sir Edward Nightingale, Bart., of Kneesworth, county Cambridge, and had three sons and seven daughters. Of the former, the eldest died in 1838, aged 19; and of the latter, four died in youth. The survivors are Charles-Edmund, who is married to Lady Eleanor Cecil Howard, eldest daughter of the Earl of Wicklow; Henry-Towry, born in 1830; Mary, wife of John, present Lord Kilmaine; Elizabeth-Sophia; and Frederica, wife of Edmund Law, Esq.

As a member of the House of Commons, Mr. Law was remarkable for his unflinching adherence to the High Tory party, and his zeal procured for him a degree of respect, even from those against whom it was directed. On occasions only when some vital principle was at stake, did the Recorder take a prominent part; and then his warm and determined advocacy was sure to produce an effect. In legal reputation and intellectual position inferior to his father, Mr. Law achieved for himself no mean reputation, by the vigour of his capacity, the cultivation of his mind, the independence of his character, and the strict impartiality and acute discernment that distinguished him on the Bench. As a representative for the University of Cambridge, he possessed a certain amount of parliamentary importance, and his sentiments on Church questions bore, consequently, with them a considerable degree of authority. His sudden death will create a general feeling of surprise and deep regret. The hon. gentleman was a Bencher of the Inner Temple.

RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—Half-yearly Meeting: Bristol: Thursday, August 15: Charles Russell, Esq., in the chair.—The report stated, that, in comparing the revenue account for the last half-year with that of the corresponding period in 1849, after making allowance for the traffic of the Bristol and Exeter Railway during the first four months of 1849, it appeared that the company had received in 1850, from passengers, £8500 less, although they had conveyed 13,000 more. They had also received £2500 less for merchandise, although they had carried an excess of 8600 tons. The statement of accounts showed that, after charging every expense during the past half-year, a net sum of £241,187 remained to be added to the former balance of £39,703. The report was adopted, a dividend of four per cent. per annum was declared, leaving a balance of £24,000 to be carried to the next half-year's account, and, after a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, the meeting separated.

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY: Half-yearly Meeting: Aug. 14th: Darlington: T. Meynell, Esq., in the chair.—The report stated that a satisfactory change had taken place in the coal revenue during the last six months. The general expenditure had also been less than for the corresponding period of last year. The gain on the last year, after paying interest on loans, &c., was £28,413 against £14,242, the gain of the previous year. The report was adopted, and a dividend of four per cent. declared. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY: August 15: Special Meeting: London: J. Macgregor, Esq., in the chair.—It was proposed, that as interest has ceased being paid out of capital upon Nos. 3 and 4 shares, they should be admitted to the receipt of dividends *pari passu* with the other shares. To this an amendment was moved, declaring the proposition illegal, and that it was incompetent to the meeting to entertain it, as it would entail litigation and a breach of faith; and, further, that the directors had forfeited the confidence of the proprietors. After a long discussion the amendment was negatived, and the original resolution carried by a large majority. By this resolution the whole of the capital of £7,915,000 will participate in the same dividend, with the exception of the guaranteed 4½ per cent. stock, amounting only to £481,300. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

TOWN TALK AND TABLE TALK.

PARLIAMENT, which is no more able to survive the beginning of grouse shooting than a mouse is to live under an exhausted receiver, has in due course died tranquilly away; the moribund stage, including the period of the transition from good hard regular work to nonentity, having been upon the whole shorter than usual. The session just over has been—especially since Whitsuntide—laborious, and the debates frequently protracted until wearisome hours of the summer mornings. And yet the campaign has been by no means an oratorical one. A single great debate—the Palmerstonian passage of arms—comprehends much, if not all, of its prepared eloquence. The palaver in question lasted four days. In that period the House sat nearly twelve hours per day, and yet the number of speakers who took part in the debate was comparatively small. The subject was too comprehensive to be treated in few words; and Lord Palmerston himself set the example by going resolutely through every topic of diplomatic interest. Those who heard it will not readily forget the noble Lord's great mental effort, extending, as Mr. Gladstone phrased it, from the "dusk of a summer night to the dawn of a summer morning." The average length of each evening sitting during the entire session has been ten hours and a half. The total number of hours passed by the Speaker in the chair will be—allowing for the time subsequent to Sir Benjamin Hall's return—about 1100; and during so much of that period as is included up to the 1st of August, fifty-eight public bills have been passed by the Legislature. The number was greater last Session by thirty-one. It would appear, then, that the just concluded Session of 1850 has not been particularly prolific either in legislation or in set oratorical speeches. The inference is that the House is now becoming more and more occupied with plain, practical discussion on the details of bills. The reign is yearly extending of that class of politicians, "quarter-session men," as they have been aptly denominated, and who are described in "Coningsby" as wearing "high-lows and shocking bad hats, and speaking in committees, and thinking that they are men of business, d—n them!" The fact that a large proportion of the bills which have been under discussion are sober, practical measures, trenching upon very few principles, but embracing vast codes of clauses, and setting in motion long trains of complicated machinery to work them, such, for example, as sanitary bills, stamp bills, and the like, makes it quite evident that the qualities of the "quarter-session" style of legislators, despite the bad hats and high-lows, are by no means to be sneezed at, and that the steady-going men of business, perfectly *au fait* to the working of social and official machinery, are destined to play no inconsiderable or unimportant part in the House; at all events, until some great agitation touching principles breezes up, and we have the country in a ferment rather than about abstract ideas than administrative details. Do the signs of the times denote the advent of any such epoch? Folks who are clever at looking into millstones profess to see the straw moving which betokens the coming of a great political agitation, and a "new Reform-bill next year" is significantly whispered from man to man. The self-made prophets were at work upon the self-made predictions this time last year. The Session just ended was to have witnessed another episode of the great contest between the aristocratic and the democratic principles. Well, the Session has come and gone. A very prosy matter-of-fact-like Session it has been. It found aristocracy and democracy very quiet, and it has left them still snuggling together, with no particular symptoms of either being likely to wake with a start and jump up in wrath.

Gravesend, in the matter of combustibility, is becoming quite an English Pera. Half-a-dozen great fires—two of them, at least, monster conflagrations—form a pretty fair allowance for a small town during half-a-dozen years. I visited the scene of the last catastrophe the day after it occurred; and a more sweeping destruction of a large-sized square of houses never was effected by fire. In the centre of the High-street, you stood amid a desert of calcined bricks, and smoking heaps of tiles, and scorched and blackened rubbish. Presently I got into talk with one of the London firemen upon duty. There were fine points of character about this stalwart hero of the brigade. The lofty contempt with which he spoke of the local firemen, was something quite magnificent. A first violin in the orchestra of the Philharmonic could not have looked down from a more magnificent height upon a brother artist in the Stoke Poges teetotal band, or the Little Piddington amateur Sons of Harmony. His prevailing notion evidently was, that the damage had not been so much caused by the fire, as by the stupidity of the firemen in not having put it out. I asked whether there had been plenty of water. The reply was delightfully characteristic. "Water! to be sure: lots o' water—no end o' water; but what do them chaps know what they're to do with water when they get it?" The local functionaries in question he pronounced, indeed, with vast scorn, to be "mere amateurs—riggler know-nothings." And the hose and engines with which the place is supplied, this supreme metropolitan authority taunted with tremendous bitterness. "Why didn't they send for us?" was always the burden of his song. "We'd have settled the matter somehow, and left some of the bricks a-standin' on each other, at any rate." As it was, he told me that the glare in the sky had been quite visible over London, and had kept the engines rattling through all the eastern portion of the town for hours, in search of the fire, which it was known must be raging somewhere. "But this glare (I quote my fireman again) is the most deceivingest thing in nature. The oldest man is as much put about by it as the youngest. No one can tell what it comes from, nor how near nor how far the fire is. One night, all the engines in London, almost, came out chasing the Aurora Borealis; and sometimes, when the clouds and the air is in some pettish state, the reflection of iron-works and coke-ovens, and things about London, will make us ready to swear there is a big fire somewhere not far from town."

With the prorogation of Parliament, the closing of the operas, and the grand annual migration of the ladies and gentlemen of England in search of health and amusement, by or beyond the waves of the Channel, comes the end of the pleasant time of iced punch at Blackwall, of multitudinous crisp whitebait, and of wafer-like slices of brown bread and butter. A late visit to the shrine of the most savoury of our Thames fishes—the taste of which, by the way, makes one wonder how anything so nice could be found in so nasty a place as the mingled mud and muddy water which the creature haunts—was painfully convincing that whitebait, like time and tide, wait for no man; that is to say, that they wait in their pristine minuteness and delicacy for no man. A dish of hobbledehoy whitebait is emphatically not a good thing. You have painful misgivings that you are devouring sprats, or it may be young whiting, or young mackerel, or young anything else, and that you are moreover consuming them after a most greedy and unorthodox fashion; for of no other fish is it permitted to eat at one munch both heads and tails and all which lies between. Whitebait is an ichthyologic exception to all rules of gastronomic propriety and etiquette; but whitebait in August suggests a doubt as to the expediency of prolonging that exception into what we must, we suppose, consider the adult state of the fish. Still, however, notwithstanding the sad propensity of these finely-flavoured and mysterious fishes to grow up out of all bounds and knowledge, a waterside dinner remains a capital thing—a fact said to have been confessed by a gentleman who the other day sat down in very bad humour to a repast of the kind, beneath the shadow of the porticoes of the Hospital. He had somehow missed a party he was to have joined. He had searched in every tavern all through the town in vain; and it was not until coolly sitting over his wine, that it flashed upon him, that his place of rendezvous had been the Green Man, at Dulwich—not as he had been all day insanely imagining, the Dull Man at Greenwich!

The unusual mortality of the present season, among men holding public stations, and of public influence, continues. This week has seen the deaths of two eminent legal functionaries—the Vice-Chancellor of England and the Recorder of the City of London. Sir C. Knight Bruce, among his many excellent qualities, was not reckoned by the bar as being by any means a man of that class whose self-formed and self-relying opinions are seldom or never swept away by the ingenious oratory of counsel. On the contrary, the late Vice-Chancellor was said to be particularly impressionable in this respect; and one of that class of somewhat dryish jokes, which circulate in the learned atmosphere of Westminster Hall, pronounced, in allusion to a leading member of the Chancery bar, the judges in question to be like the King of old, who placed his trust in "Bethel." Mr. Law, the late Recorder, was a Tory of the genuine old stamp, perhaps nearly as full of antiquated notions, and favouring those given to change as little as his father. In Parliament the Recorder made no figure. The House never lent him its ear, and, to do him justice, it was not often he claimed it. His speeches, when he did speak, were usually on subjects more or less connected with ecclesiastical reforms; and, of course, the learned member for the University of Cambridge would never consent to the brushing away of even a stifling cobweb from the mouth, nose, or eyes of *Alma Mater*. His style, when addressing the House, was as dry as sawdust, and his matter about as digestible. He shone in his civic rather than in his political capacity. His ceremonial speeches on corporation occasions were, of their sort, very creditable orations—the masher eked out with a good show of well-learned twangling sentences. On the bench the Recorder was as painstaking, intelligent, and upright a Judge, as ever sat there. He generally took the less important class of trials at the Old Bailey, and used to show a great deal of acumen, and a praiseworthy desire to get at the exact truth in the investigation of the thousand miserable larceny, pocket-picking and "smashing" cases which yearly came before him.

A little incident, the odd, but perfectly authentic incidents of which were the other day communicated to me, throws a glimmer of light upon one of the thousand modes of livelihood pursued by certain members of the class who compose that half of the world which proverbially gets its living by means unknown to the other half. A gentleman, while hurrying along the pavement in Holborn, was jostled by another who was proceeding at a running pace in the opposite direction, and in the accidental and momentary scuffle which ensued, the watch of the former was twitched out of his waistcoat pocket, the chain broken, and the time-piece—a somewhat valuable one—disappeared between the bars of one of the trapped gratings down which the kennel-water pours. Here was an unlucky adventure! The loser of the watch gazed wistfully after it: the glittering morsel had disappeared in a little black pool some five feet beneath the street. What was to be done? The proprietor proceeded to the nearest police-station, and told his story. He received no consolation. "Very awkward—very unlucky, indeed; hardly knew what to say; quite out of their department. Perhaps Commissioners of Sewers might do something—they couldn't." Very little encouraged by this negative style of consolation, the unfortunate went despondingly back to the trap-hole to derive what comfort was to be gained from gazing down between the bars. Here, after a space, he was joined by a man of shabby appearance and dirty unshorn countenance. "Lost anything?" said the new-comer. The misfortune was explained to him. "I'll get it out for you, if we come to terms," was the reply. The bereaved owner considerably mistrusted the power of performing his promise possessed by his new acquaintance; but the case was desperate, and a bargain was soon struck. "You'll have it in four hours," said the dirty man. "Why not now?" was the natural question. "Because," replied the other, "till the tide ebbs I

can't get up the drain." Here was the key to the mystery at once. In due time the mudlark made his way to one of the unsavoury disembodying places of the London arterial drains, and in due time, after traversing the necessary extent of filthy way, he made his appearance beneath the grating in Holborn. The watch was at once handed up, the stipulated couple of sovereigns handed down, and the subterranean adventurer disappeared, to scare the rats as he groped his noisome way back to the Thames.

A. B. R.

EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY.—STRIKE AMONG THE DRIVERS, FIREMEN, &c.

A dispute which has arisen between the Eastern Counties Railway authorities and the employees of the locomotive department, has terminated in the resignation of the engine-drivers and firemen in the service of the company. On Sunday evening a meeting of between 100 and 200 engine-drivers, firemen, and fitters in the employ of this company was held at Stratford. Representatives from different lines in the kingdom were present. The proceedings lasted some hours. It was stated that a fortnight previously Mr. Gooch, late of the South-Western, became locomotive superintendent of the company, when a new system was introduced in that department, with a view of cutting down the expenses. The previous scale of wages was abandoned; drivers who had been some time in the service of the company, and had reached the highest class, 7s. 6d. a day, were discharged to make room for other hands at 6s. The same alteration was made with the firemen at 4s. per day; while with the fitters a large number of old hands were dismissed, and younger ones at a lower rate engaged. In addition to this, fines were imposed, which, in one instance, amounted to 30s. in one week, for a defect over which the driver had not the slightest control. Another matter of complaint was, that a new duty was imposed upon the drivers, viz. that of acting as fitters, with a view of superseding to a great extent that body. Several men spoke of the treatment pursued towards them as being unfair. It was at length arranged that a memorial should be presented to the directors, praying for the dismissal of the superintendent; and that, in the event of the directors declining to acquiesce in their proposition, that the whole body of drivers, firemen, and fitters employed at the company's works at Stratford, Cambridge, Norwich, Peterborough, &c., should send in their notices to quit the company's service. Accordingly, on Monday afternoon last, after a conference with Mr. Ellis, one of the directors, no fewer than 178 notices were sent in, intimating their intention of quitting the company's employment on Monday next, an event which has caused no trifling sensation in the districts through which the line passes. The same evening, a meeting of the body was held at the George, Stratford, when it was resolved that the drivers should not work with strange mates or firemen, and that, if a stranger was placed upon the engine with them, they should immediately quit it, and allow the stranger either to proceed with the engine or leave it. They argued that this was no refusal of duty; they only declined to travel with a stranger; but, even if it was a refusal, the company would have their task in fining or imprisoning the whole of them. This was the way the London and North-Western men succeeded; and they urged that they must do the same, if they wished to be victorious. On Tuesday, the directors of the company had a board-meeting on the subject, which lasted some time. It is understood that the complaints of the men were taken into consideration, and that the board came to the conclusion that they were of a far different character than had been represented by them, and therefore confirmed Mr. Gooch's conduct. It was also said, that the company had adopted every precaution in running the trains and carrying on the traffic, in the event of the drivers and firemen quitting, as they had proposed, on Monday morning next.

On Wednesday a general meeting of the drivers and firemen of the Eastern Counties Railway was held at the George Inn, Stratford.

Mr. J. T. Hope, engine-man, occupied the chair, and, having exhorted his fellow-workmen each and all to speak out boldly, yet with the strictest adherence to truth, in confirmation of what he had to say, proceeded to explain the nature of the grievances complained of. Our new superintendent, he said, came here about a fortnight ago. We knew very well that we should have a sharp eye upon us, but for that we did not care. We know our duty, we have always done it, and were prepared to do it. We were, however, not prepared for money punishment to be visited upon us, under a system which, in reality, lays it down as a principle that machinery is never to get out of order, and that steel and iron are never to break or wear out; but if an eccentric strap break, or the cotter of a draw should spring off, the driver and fireman are to be fined a day's pay. I say we were not prepared for this, nor can it be expected that this measure of injustice should be dealt out to us at the mercy of the new superintendent without appeal or without the remotest chance of redress. And this is not the only measure of which we complain. It is very evident, from what has taken place during the last fortnight, that a cutting-down system of economy is to be unscrupulously carried out against the drivers and firemen upon this line, and that length and faithfulness of service, skill, sobriety, and good conduct are to weigh as nothing against 6d. a day to be saved out of this man's wages, or 4d. a day out of that man's pay. I will now mention the sort of system under which we have been working for the last fortnight. The first case of injustice I shall lay before you is that of Joseph Tutton, driver, and George Jenkins, fireman. When about thirty-four miles on his journey, and while running at the ordinary speed, the cotter of his cross-head broke in three pieces. Now you all know that he could no more prevent that accident than any man who may be passing this house at this present moment; but, nevertheless, both driver and fireman were fined two days' pay, and suspended for two days and three-quarters. The next case is that of James Steele, driver, and William Bird, fireman. While running, the cage of his clack broke, the ball of the clack worked into the pump, and the consequence was the eccentric strap broke. No skill, however great, no care, however watchful, could prevent such an accident, and yet both men were fined one-quarter day each. Another case is that of Henry Harriss, driver, and John Knight, fireman. The eccentric shackle of the engine slipped and caused a detention of the train ten minutes. Such a thing as this will occur to the best driver in the world without his being able to prevent it; but under the new system the men were fined a quarter day's pay each. James Monks, engineman, and William Cowen, fireman, were fined 1s. each for a porter neglecting his duty in turning off the water. When Monks went to Mr. Gooch about it, he (Mr. Gooch) told him he was sorry he had fined them, but as he had given his word he would not alter it. Monks told him he would not submit to be fined unjustly; therefore Mr. Gooch immediately discharged him. The next is a case unparalleled in railway management. Mr. Gooch requested William Hewett, engine-man, to shift his family to Norwich, as he fully intended for him to run from Norwich to London and back—a distance of 260 miles—for one day's work. Hewett told him no man could do it. Mr. Gooch's reply was, that he would not be the only person who would have to do it, as he intended to have the time-tables altered so that every man could do it. The next case is that of James Nelson, engine-driver, and William Jolly, fireman. Their train consisted of thirty waggons. While shunting this train the draw-bar of one of the waggons gave way. For this they were in no degree to blame; the iron broke, as iron will sometimes break; but, as, under the new system, iron is not allowed to break without the express sanction of the driver and his mate, they were, of course, fined one day's pay each. There are several other cases of this character. Edward Reay, driver; and William Head, fireman, were fined 1s. each because a draw-bar broke in taking a train of thirty loaded waggons. George Cann, engine-man, and John Hall, fireman, were discharged for no other reason than that they were old, and had been to this company faithful servants, and were receiving, by servitude and good conduct, the first-class wages. Mr. Gooch distinctly told Cann he would pay no man whatever the wages he was receiving, so that old, experienced, and good men are of no more value to Mr. Gooch than the youngest engine-driver on the line. Let the public decide whether these experienced men, or the firemen and men of any or no character from other places that Mr. Gooch may be engaging and promising the rate of wages the first-class enginemen and firemen have, are the fittest to intrust their lives to. George Burling, engine-man, was summarily discharged because he refused to work two men's work in one day—namely, his own and a fitter's. (Thomas Thomson was suspended because the set-screw of his top clack blew out, a circumstance over which he could not possibly have any control. It is, fellow-workmen, against such wanton injustice as that which I have just detailed to you, that we protest. With such a system in operation, no driver, however skilful, however experienced, however careful, can ever be safe from the infliction of injustice upon him.

This statement having been confirmed by several of the parties alluded to, James Kastrick moved, and William Hewett seconded, the following resolution:—

That the conduct pursued towards the drivers and firemen of the Eastern Counties Railway has, for the last fortnight, been most irritating and unjust; that men have been fined for accidents which no human prudence or foresight could prevent; that old, faithful, and skilful drivers, receiving the highest class of wages, have been summarily discharged without cause assigned; and that it is the opinion of this meeting, speaking for themselves, that they could not possibly continue to work under the system recently introduced, and by the operations of which all their care, experience, and skill are rendered utterly useless in preventing the infliction of frequent and heavy fines.

The resolution having been unanimously passed, the chairman dissolved the meeting.

The Rev. T. Page, one of the proctors for the diocese of Ely, suggests that those members of the present actual Convocation who are favourable to its being called into action should meet in London, and consult on the proper way of proceeding. He says:—"We should meet, not as Convocation, but merely as members of Convocation. We could agree upon a petition to the Sovereign, imploring her to give the Church license to speak for herself in spiritual things; and we could address the Archbishop of Canterbury and his suffragans, praying them to use their influence with the Sovereign for the assembling of Convocation for business."

The Hanoverian Government, anxious to promote the interests of its new free port at Hørborg, on the left bank of the Elbe, has granted, by an order of the 6th of August, 1850, the remission of the State duties on all goods arriving by sea at that harbour.

IMPORTATION OF WINE FROM CANADA.—A vessel has arrived from Montreal, having a large quantity of casks of wine, the produce of Southern Europe, on board, consigned, as a part of her cargo, to order. There have been some recent arrivals of such wines from the United States, but this is the first of the kind from the British possessions in North America.

A gentleman residing in Taunton has constructed an umbrella on a novel principle, the main feature of which is that it can be carried in the pocket with ease. He intends sending it to the Great Exhibition of 1851.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

An explosion took place on the 29th ult. in a gunpowder manufactory at Eierstad, a league from Christiania, in Norway. Ten men were at work at the time; six were killed on the spot, two were seriously injured, and the other two could not be found. The violence of the explosion was such, that the windows of several houses at Christiania were broken. The manufactory had only been open six weeks, and belonged to Messrs. Haxmann and Olsen.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

the church. Here prayers were read by the Rev. Robert Bunch, Rector of Emmanuel Church, and a most appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. Henry Fearon, Rector of All Saints.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

the church. Here prayers were read by the Rev. Robert Bunch, Rector of Emmanuel Church, and a most appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. Henry Fearon, Rector of All Saints.

at K 5th, P at K B 4th.
Black: K at K R sq, Q at K Kt 2d, Kt at K B 3d, P at K Kt 7th.
White to play, and mate in four moves.

FRIDAY, the 9th inst., was observed as a general holiday at Loughborough & the neighbouring villages, in honour of the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of the extensive Schools about to be erected, on a scheme approved by the Court of Chancery, from the funds left for charitable uses, in 1498, by Thomas Burton, a merchant of the staple, a resident, and, it is believed, a native of that town. The Lord Bishop of Peterborough, who is not only a native of Loughborough but was a distinguished pupil of the former school, founded from the estates of the same beneficent donor, kindly consented to lay the stone.

The occasion was one of unusual interest, and the inhabitants determined not only to do honour to the memory of Thomas Burton, but to testify their esteem to the venerable and excellent prelate of whom Loughborough has such just reason to be proud. At an early hour, the national flag, on the fine tower of St. Mary's, announced that the festival had begun. The clergy and gentry of the town and neighbourhood met the Bishop at the rectory, whence they proceeded to the church. Here prayers were read by the Rev. Robert Hunch, Rector of Lincolnton Church, and a most appropriate sermon was delivered by the Rev. Henry Fearon, Rector of All Saints.



THE NEW FREE GRAMMAR AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOL AT LOUGHBOROUGH.

A procession was then formed to the School grounds. Probably at no period in the town's history was such a heart-stirring sight as this ever beheld. The fine band of the 1st Royal Dragoons preceded, followed by the

High Constable—E. P. Jackson, Esq.
County Police—officers.
Builders—Mr. Forman, Mr. Walpole, Mr. Freeman.
Architects—Mr. Hebsen (bearing Bettle and Crane), Mr. Morris (Silver Trowel).
Masters of the Low School—Mr. Twells, Mr. Carville.
Scholars, four abreast.
Mistresses of the Low School—Mrs. Russell, Miss Russell.
Master of the High School—Mr. C. E. Warner.
Mistresses of the High School—Miss Charnock, Miss Donaldson.
Solicitors to the Trustees—J. W. Woolley, Thomas Cradock.
Receiver—Mr. North.
Trustees—John Cartwright, John Smith, John Watson, Thomas Woodcock, John Barron, Edward Harley, Edward C. Middleton, J. H. Eddowes, John White, William Clifford.
Churchwardens—H. Toome, T. Barker, T. Newton, E. Warner.
Bishop's Chaplains—Rev. W. Hildebrand, Rev. H. H. Wyatt.
Bishop's Mace-Bearer.

THE LORD BISHOP OF LINCOLN.
THE LORD BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

The Rev Robt Bunch. Clergy, two abreast.
Dissenting Ministers, two abreast.
Gentry of the town and county, three abreast.
County Police.

In this order the procession reached the School grounds, the entrance to which was decorated by a very tasteful arch of evergreen, having inscribed in dahlias the words "BURTON'S CHARITY."

The site of the new Schools is judiciously chosen. Round the foundation-stone were erected spacious platforms and galleries, filled by numbers of "fair women and brave men." The Bishop ascended an elevated throne, or dais, covered with crimson; around him, the clergy and the trustees (the latter a body of remarkably fine men) formed altogether a group of uncommon interest. And now John Cartwright, Esq., the senior trustee, effectively read an address to the

Bishop, which gave a succinct history of the Charity; and concluded with some graceful allusions to its great founder, to the Prelate's connexion with the town, and to the honour conferred upon it by his Lordship's distinguished and useful career. Nothing could be in better taste than this well-written address and the Bishop's admirable reply. Their length alone prevents our transferring them to these columns.

The beautifully-wrought silver trowel, appropriately inscribed, was now, in suitable terms, presented to his Lordship by Edward Chatterton Middleton, Esq., and the Bishop performed all the work of laying and inaugurating the stone with true masonic skill and with great adroitness. The ceremony was concluded, as it had occasionally been relieved, by psalms and hymns, sung by the church choir, and joined in by a thousand youthful voices.

The party now retired to an elegant pavilion, where a cold collation had been provided. John Cartwright, Esq., presided, supported by the Bishops of Peterborough and Lincoln, C. W. Packe, Esq., M.P., William Herrick, Esq., and Sir Frederick Heygate, Bart. The banquet was *recherché*, and the presence of the gentler sex gave an additional grace to it. The Dowager Lady Sitwell, Lady Heygate, Mrs. Packe Reading, Miss Herrick, Mrs. G. Warner, Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Byng Paget, &c., were amongst the number. The company were ably addressed by the chairman, the two Bishops, E. C. Middleton, Esq., J. H. Eddowes, Esq., William Herrick, Esq., the Revs. Henry Fearon and Robert Bunch, and other gentlemen. Mr. Middleton's speech elicited great and deserved applause.

At three o'clock, 2500 Sunday scholars assembled in the Market-place, and, having been marshalled four abreast, proceeded—headed by Beauvoir Brock, Esq., and their teachers—to Elms Park, the beautiful seat of Henry Warner, Esq. Each school had its appropriate flag or banner. The entrance lodge was surmounted by an arch of evergreens, bearing in floral mosaic, the word "WELCOME." This was, indeed, no unmeaning word here; for not only were the hosts of juveniles regaled with tea and cake on the lawn, but the public, calculated at fifteen thousand, freely admitted and welcomed with an old English hospitality rarely if ever surpassed. One hundred and four tables, each holding twenty-four, were set out for the children in front of the mansion; and, whether this large and happy group was viewed from the terrace, with the blue hills of Charnwood

in the distance, or from the road, with the mansion in the background, the scene was one that the spectators will never forget. It was full of beauty to the most careless observer—full of deep and soul-stirring interest to contemplative minds.

After tea, rural games, and music, and a dance on the green, in which Sir Frederick Heygate and others of the gentry goodnaturedly joined, agreeably filled up the time till night threw her sombre curtain o'er the scene; when a display of superb fireworks, by Mortram, of London, formed the *finale* of the most memorable day in the annals of Loughborough.

To the good Bishop, to the Rev. H. Fearon, to the Rev. Robert Bunch, to J. C. Middleton, Esq., to John Cartwright, Esq., to Beauvoir Brock, Esq., and to the trustees of the noble charity the thanks of thousands are justly due.

The generous owner of Elm Park will have his reward in the reflection that he has used the rare combination of the power, will, and opportunity to do good in a manner that delighted some thousand hearts. The great exertions of the inhabitants of the whole town to give *éclat* to the inauguration deserve a country's thanks. All may indulge the reasonable hope that the day will prove the dawn of a brighter and better era for Loughborough; and that not only was laid the foundation-stone of a noble charity, but that the charities and amenities of life have been greatly promoted and placed on a better foundation.

We have engraved a view of the School Buildings, as they will appear when completed. The architects are Messrs. Morris and Hebsen. The style is old English, with ornamented gables, bay windows, and other picturesque features. The edifice, backed by the lovely, forest hills of Charnwood, will be a very effective scene.

The second illustration shows one of the most interesting stages of the procession.

The trowel used upon the occasion was designed by Messrs. Morris and Hebsen, and executed by Toms and Co., of Ludgate-hill. The handle is of ivory, beautifully carved; at the hilt is the figure of a merchant, *temp.* Hen. VIII., beneath an architectural canopy, in silver; and the blade, fourteen inches in length, has a Tudor border, and bears the following inscription:—

Presented by the Trustees of Burton's Charity, Loughborough, to the Right Rev George Davys, D.D., Lord Bishop of Peterborough, on the occasion of his laying the Corner-Stone of the Free Grammar School Building, August 9th, 1850.



FOUNDING OF THE NEW SCHOOL AT LOUGHBOROUGH.—THE PROCESSION.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE tragic opera of "Norma" was performed on Tuesday for the occasion of the *début* of Claudina Fiorentini. The young *prima donna* is a native of Seville, and received her vocal education under the auspices of Signor Crivelli. We believe she made her first appearance in public last year, at Berlin, as *Norma*, and achieved a striking success, where she remained fulfilling an extensive repertory, consisting of the chief heroines in the lyric drama. She acted *Donna Anna* in "Don Giovanni," *Agathe* "Der Freischütz," *Carolina* in "Il Matrimonio Segreto," *Desdemona* in "Otello," *Amina* in "Son-nambula," *Lucrezia* in "Lucrezia Borgia," *Leonora* in "La Favorita," and *Ninetta* in "La azza



MADAME FIORENTINI, AS "NORMA."

Ladra"—a range of impersonations which argues, at all events, great industry and satisfactory proofs of her power of sustentation. At the expiration of the season, she joined the Italian *troupe* at Dresden, and subsequently created a sensation at Hamburg, whence she came to London to essay her qualifications at Her Majesty's Theatre.

The part of *Norma* requires the loftiest powers for its due embodiment; for the actress must not only possess the grand elements of the tragedian, but all the vocal attributes must be in superabundance. Power of face, variety of expression, picturesque action, brilliant voice, and marked accentuation, must be united to form a perfect whole. Great artists, who have illustrated the ruling creations of the lyrical stage, have failed in illustrating the various and conflicting phases which make up the mental and physical requirements of the Druid

strength and *timbre* in the medium and lower range; it is, however, sympathetic, and naturally produced; and, what is most grateful to the listener, bears no symptoms of fatigue from exertion. Thus, on Tuesday night, the difficult finale to the last act, with its deep pathos and tragic emotion, was sung with a voice as fresh and brilliant as that which interpreted the opening recitative "Sediziose voci di guerra." Her impersonation of "Norma" differs materially in conception to the received models, for there is little of the *Queen*, and none of the violence of the outraged prophetess, the jealous boundings of the insulted woman, the mighty outpourings of the crushed heart, rocked to and fro on the billows of her despair. Madame Fiorentini's *Norma* is rather the gentle woman whose deep love for her Roman seducer swallows up all other feelings. Her instincts are full of love and kindness. She has no vengeance for *Pollione*, no animosity for *Adelgisa*; all her emotions are full of womanhood; she is feminine, and plastic, and passionate; the outraged *Queen* and priestess is transformed into the weeping mother, the sympathising friend, and the bereaved woman. The rendering of the famous scene, "Casta Diva," was satisfactory in all respects, and was deservedly applauded; and Signora Fiorentini was called for at the conclusion. The duet with *Adelgisa*, "Alma costanza," was delightfully sung, and Madame Giuliani gave full effect to the part; and the dramatic trio with which the act concludes was strikingly interpreted. The *débutante* was thrice called before the curtain, amidst the acclamation of the house. The popular duet in the second act, "Deh! con te prendi," was rapturously re-demanded; and the beautiful air from "Norma," "Quel cor tradisce," was given with a truthful pathos and touching tenderness. Indeed, her entire rendering of the *finale* was perfect, and fully merited the enthusiasm it excited. The *Orovoso* of Lablache may be quoted as one of the grandest portraits the present stage can boast. It is the very incarnation of the Druidical priesthood—sublime in its massive proportions, severe in its calmness, and imposing from its apparent absence of human passions; and how fearful is the momentary outbreak of the paternal nature, when listening to the unhallowed confession of his priestess-child. It possesses all the grandest characteristics of the old Greek tragedies of *Æschylus*. Gardoni gave admirable effect to the Roman poltroon, *Pollione*; and Mme. Giuliani is by far the best *Adelgisa* we have seen. The chorus was magnificent, and the orchestra gave full efficiency to the noble inspirations of Bellini. The recalls before the curtain were frequent, and the *débutante* was rewarded with cheers, bouquets, and every species of popular ovation.

On Thursday night, Signora Fiorentini made her second appearance in *Donna Anna*, in the opera of "Don Giovanni," in which she fully sustained the effect produced upon the occasion of her *début*. The house was crowded in every part.

LARGE CAT.

This noble specimen of the Cat is domesticated at No. 175, Oxford-street. He is a beautifully-marked Tabby, and is very docile, though his unusually large size conveys to the beholder, at first sight, a contrary impression. He weighs 25½ lb.; and measures 27 inches round the body, and 36½ inches from the tip of the tail to the end of the nose; height, 11½ inches to the top of the shoulders. The Cat has gained 7 lb. in weight within the last two years; he does not eat so much as an ordinary cat, and is extremely active, and rarely appears to be inconvenienced by his great bulk. He is seven years old, and was born in a building known as "the old Palace at Chelsea."

RESTORATION OF THE HIGH CROSS AT BRISTOL.

The foundation-stone of the new High Cross, for the city of Bristol, was laid



MRS. GRAHAM'S BALLOON ON FIRE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

with due ceremony on Thursday, the 8th inst. The site chosen is the place formerly occupied by the original structure, in College-green. At noon, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, J. K. Habersfield, Esq., accompanied by the Sword-bearer and other officers, the magistrates, the members of the town council, the Charity trustees of the various city institutions, the society of merchants, the committee and subscribers to the High Cross fund, and the members of the provincial, grand, and other lodges of Freemasons, attired in their appropriate costume, and wearing their customary insignia, &c., formed themselves into a procession at the council-house, and, headed by the band of the 72d Highlanders, now stationed in Bristol, passed in procession down Corn-street, Clare-street, St. Augustine's Parade, &c., to College-green, where, on the site of the old Cross, it had been determined that the new structure should be raised.

On their arrival, the Mayor officiated at the ceremony of the deposition of the first stone, which was laid amidst the acclamations of the thousands who filled every portion of the area of the green.

In the evening the Freemasons dined together, when the Mayor, the officers of the 72nd Highlanders, the principal and leading gentlemen who had taken part in the interesting proceedings of the day, &c., were invited as guests. A gala *fête*, likewise, took place at the Zoological Gardens, in honour of the event.

The noble area of the College Green was formerly adorned with a magnificent structure, surmounted by a cross, and the niches enriched with eight statues of the monarchs of England, viz. Henry III., John, Edward III., Henry VI., Edward IV., Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I. This erection was forty feet in height, and must have presented a very handsome and imposing appearance, standing in the middle of the large space adjoining the cathedral. The original one was erected in the year 1373, by the Corporation of the City, as a memorial of their gratitude to the reigning monarch, Edward III., for his liberality in granting a charter and privileges to the city. The Bristol High Cross for centuries was the spot at which every event of importance, whether of a national or local character, was celebrated. In consequence of the inconvenience experienced by its being placed in the centre of the city, this beautiful structure was removed in 1736 to College Green; where, after remaining a few years, it was again taken down, and presented to that venerable antiquary, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart., of Stourhead, Wiltshire, who placed it in his park, where it still remains. It was to replace this interesting relic of ancient times that a number of gentlemen interested themselves in the subject, and after considerable exertion succeeded in raising a sum of money sufficient to warrant the laying of the foundation-stone.

When completed, the New Cross, which will be an exact copy of the original



THE NEW HIGH CIVIC CROSS, BRISTOL.



LARGE CAT.

and of which the above is an accurate Sketch from the model, will be an object of great interest, and present a very imposing appearance.

DESTRUCTION OF MRS. GRAHAM'S BALLOON.

On the evening of Wednesday week Mrs. Graham ascended in her balloon from Cremorne Gardens; and, after a short but tempestuous voyage, alighted in Booker's Fields, near Edmonton, where the destruction of the balloon by fire took place. The following is Mrs. Graham's own narrative of the melancholy dénouement of her voyage:—

"I entered the car just after ten o'clock, at which time the wind had increased, and the gas, which during the period of inflation had been considerably expanded under the sun's rays, had by this time greatly condensed, in consequence of the heavy rain, which caused an augmentation in the weight of the netting and apparatus. The consequence was, that the balloon, which, on the 29th of July, carried up five persons, would now only take myself, allowing for the weight of fireworks (75 lb.), the tackle of which was not attached by the advice of Mr. Simpson, the proprietor, he fearing that if the fireworks came in contact with the trees they might become deranged, and cause some accident to myself. The result proved the correctness of his determination, as, with an ascending power of 80 lb., I still scarcely cleared the trees. Continuing to ascend, I speedily lost trace of the metropolis, although I could distinctly hear the rolling of carriages beneath me, which continued about a quarter of an hour, when the sound seemed lost in distance. I now commenced descending, which I gradually did until I heard the signal of a railway train and saw some few lights; but the night being extremely dark, it was impossible to form any conjecture as to my whereabouts. I at length touched the ground, and the wind still increasing, was carried over several fields, where the grapple took a firm hold in a ditch; and for half an hour I continued shouting as loud as I could for help, but to no purpose. Meanwhile, I kept the valve open to its full extent, rolling about all the while, the car at times completely turning over, and giving me plenty of trouble to retain my hold. At length, police constable 305 came over the fields to my assistance, and held on to the car. For at least twenty minutes I had no other help; but, at length additional assistance arrived, and I continued emptying the balloon. Upon walking round to see if the valve was open, a man indiscreetly came behind me with a light, which coming in contact with the escaping gas, instantaneously ignited, giving forth a volume of flame which resembled the dome of St. Paul's on fire: the effect of the sudden combustion of from 8000 to 10,000 cubic feet of gas was terrific."

Mrs. Graham was severely scorched on the face and hands, and part of her clothing was destroyed. The balloon was a new and beautiful one, and had been fitted up at a great cost.

We learn that a subscription has been commenced with the object of indemnifying Mrs. Graham for her loss, and books for this purpose have been opened at Messrs. Drummond's bank, Charing-cross; and Messrs. Roberts and Co., Lombard-street.

THE THEATRES.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

Halévy's grand lyric work, "La Juive," has gained immensely on the musical public since its first representation. The fifth performance, last Saturday night, created the greatest enthusiasm. The anticipation of those amateurs acquainted with the great success of this opera in France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Russia, &c., that the school of Halévy only required to be known to insure its popularity, bids fair to be realised. It could not be presumed that this country, in which art is making such rapid strides, would differ from the verdict of every other nation where the lyric drama flourishes. Eventually, the continued triumph of "La Juive," for the last fifteen years, in every part of the Continent, will be fully confirmed here. Nothing but sheer prejudice and national antipathy can account for the condemnation and under-rating of such a truly great production, in which the individuality of the composer is so strongly marked, and the characteristics of the age in which the incidents of the poem occur are so skillfully developed and depicted. The local colouring of Halévy is the remarkable peculiarity of the music; he has seized the very spirit of the middle ages in echoing by sound the varied phrases of Schiller's intensely interesting drama. The finale of the first act is strikingly original; whilst the pomp and parade of the gorgeous spectacle passes before the eyes, the ear is enchanted by an impassioned theme, taken up in turn by the soprano (*Rachel*) and tenor (*Lazaro*), with soul-stirring effect. As sung by Viardot and Mario on Saturday, the house rang with the *furore* of the audience. The excitement of the finale is succeeded by the impressive Passover scene, opening the second act, another instance of the melodious imagery of Halévy. The *Cardinal's* cavatina, so finely sung by Formes, is a delicious melody, the orchestral and choral under-current being most masterly and ear-haunting. The lovely romance in three flats, common time, "Ei viene a me" (*Il va venir*), is European in popularity, and the slow movement of *Lazaro's* grand scena "Rachele, ah quando a me," so divinely sung by Mario, is a poetic creation worthy of any composer. The excommunication pronounced by the *Cardinal* in the third act was imitated by Donizetti in the "Favorita," but the awfulness of the situation is painted by Halévy in much more terrible accents. Contrast the funeral march in the last scene of "La Juive" with that of Rossini in "La Gazza Lutra," and the genius of the French composer will be at once recognized. The trio finale of the second act always provokes a storm of applause, a compliment due equally to the composition and the execution. It is but rarely in one's musical experience we hear three such artists as Viardot, Tambril, and Mario in such a dramatic trio. The part of *Leopoldo* certainly comes under the denomination of "ungrateful," but the artistic intellect, tact, and taste of Tambril carry him through the disagreeable situations triumphantly. As yet, Mario's *Lazaro* rests mainly on his rich vocalisation; if he will "make up" his head differently, and give his mind to the Jew's attributes, it may still be rendered his finest creation. Every true amateur, free from bigotry and intolerance, who aspires to be a cosmopolite in musical art, as well as in painting, ought to hear "La Juive" again and again, and on every hearing, as we have heard many of the subscribers to the theatre justly remark, the opera will gain in estimation.

The ninth representation of Meyerbeer's "Prophète" took place on Tuesday night; and for the extra night, on Thursday, this magnificent lyric work was repeated, for the tenth time; the performance having been commanded by her Majesty, who, with Prince Albert, honoured the theatre with their presence. Notwithstanding the lateness of the season, Meyerbeer's masterpiece always makes a great house. The "Huguenots" will be given, for the eleventh time, to-night (Saturday).

HAYMARKET.

"The Hippopotamus" is the title of a new farce produced on Monday, and acted by the Adelphi company. The humour of the piece rests almost entirely with Mr. Wright, who, as a *Mr. Tiddynk*, a ham-and-beef shop proprietor, follows his wife to the Zoological Gardens, having a suspicion that the hippopotamus which she goes so often to see may turn out to be some huge disturber of matrimonial felicity. Mr. Paul Bedford, as a colossal sergeant, *Lullus*, indeed stands awhile for this character; but it happens that the female on his arm, though in dress very like *Mrs. Tiddynk*, is a nurse-maid out for the day. Ere long, however, *Mrs. Tiddynk* herself, in order to punish her husband for his suspicions, gets up a flirtation with the lifeguardman. Wright's distress is amusing. The scene concludes with a queer sort of allegorical contest between the hippopotamus and a lion, not very effective in representation. This "zoological extravaganza" was moderately successful.

NEW STRAND.

"Without Incumbrances" is the title of a new piece produced on Monday, and written by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Compton enacts the hero in superb style, as *Paul Pitagay*, late usher of Homer-house Academy. Attracted by the advertisement of *Lady Buckram* (Mrs. B. Bartlett), for a master "of high moral principle, firm discipline, and without incumbrance," to an infant school about to be established by herself, *Paul* arrives at the village inn, without any incumbrance but his carpet-bag. However, falling asleep in the bow-window, two ladies, one in male disguise, are planted upon him as his wife and son, by parties who, in order to escape, are induced to plant their incumbrances upon him. Compton is accordingly involved in a series of ludicrous distresses, which he renders really classical by his artistic mode of treatment. The scene is one of much bustle and perplexity, calculated to excite the mirth of the audience; and the farce was decidedly successful.

SURREY.

A new piece, called an "Original Originality" and entitled "Tricks and Trials, or Life as we find it in 1850," was produced on Monday, and pretends to instruct the audiences in the "dodges" by which the adventurous portion of our population get on in the world. One *Job Shuffie* (Mr. Widdicombe) begins with selling penny rings, becomes the director of a company for the supplying of new milk to ships on their way to America, and concludes with an advantageous marriage. Similar fortunes attend his friends *Maegregor*, *Peter* (Mr. Bruce Norton), and *Tim Bricks* (Mr. W. Collier). The piece is placed on the stage with much attention to scenery and costume. The curtain fall on a scene in Vauxhall Gardens, with a *bat masque*, and an ascending balloon, containing a small ass, which excited considerable applause.

FINSBURY PARK.—The proposed park will cover an area of about 300 acres, and its estimated cost for the purchase of the freehold would be about £150,000. Surely this is not an outlay to be grudged by the Government to the inhabitants of Finsbury, for an acquisition, which will confer immeasurable benefit on this and succeeding generations, one, moreover, essential to the well-being of a vast and increasing population, and imperatively called for by every consideration of public health and utility. It is, not without reason, stated, that, unless advantage be now taken to secure the only available space still open, the opportunity for forming a park in this part of the metropolis will be lost for ever, inasmuch as it has been fully ascertained that the ground of the intended site will otherwise, within a short time, be covered with houses. The spirit with which the matter has been taken up, however, encourages the hope, that Finsbury, ere long, will enjoy the invaluable boon recently conceded to the Tower Hamlets, and no longer be destitute of what ought to constitute its chief attraction, as well as the most healthful and agreeable resort of its densely crowded population.

MUSIC.

SURREY.

Auber's "Masaniello" and Wallace's "Maritana" have been represented with great success. If the orchestral and choral resources of the establishment were not sufficiently strong to do justice to the above operas, the respective casts were generally efficient. Mr. Travers has much improved in his acting and singing; and, despite of the fatigue of singing every evening in a long opera, he never spares himself, in order to do justice to the composer. Mdlle. Nau was the *Elvira* in Auber's work—a character familiar to her, as she has sustained it at the Grand Opera in Paris. She is a most accomplished vocalist, and is heard to the best advantage in the French school. Miss Anne Romer's *Maritana* is both charmingly acted and sung. Vincent Wallace's opera is ever fresh and attractive, and is filled with melodious gems. Such compositions as "Alas! those chimenes," "Turn on, old Time!" "Scenes that are brightest," "Pretty Gitana," "Tis the harp in the air," "There is a flower that bloometh," "It was a Knight," &c., are not ephemeral productions, but are fine inspirations of the genuine English school, entitling Mr. Wallace to a place in the first rank of living lyric composers.

MUSICAL EVENTS.—An evening concert, with Signor Piloti and Mr. F. O. Williams as conductors, took place last Monday, at Sadler's Wells Theatre: the vocalists were Miss Catherine Hayes, Miss Poole, Madame Mortier, Miss Allen, Signor Bottura, Mr. G. Perren, Mr. T. Williams, and Herr Formes; with Mr. B. Blagrove, concertina; Signor Piatti, violoncello; and Miss Bennett, piano, as instrumentalists. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and Miss Leslie, assisted by Mr. W. G. Ross, gave their third Caledonian entertainment at Crosby Hall last Monday night. Mr. John Parry will give his new entertainment, for the last time this season, next Monday, at the Music Hall.—Last night (Friday) Mdlle. Lind was to have sung at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall: on Monday she will sing at the same place, in Handel's "Messiah," and on Wednesday she will embark, with Benedict and Signor Belletti, for the United States.—The concert of M. Vivier, given in the Salle de Conversation, Baden-Baden, on the 6th instant, was brilliantly attended. The Grand Duke of Baden and the principal members of his family were present, as also the King of Wurtemberg, the Duke of Nassau, and a long list of Russian, French, German, and English fashionables. The receipts, at 20s. per ticket, amounted to £600. Mdlle. Lind was the magnet of attraction; she was in excellent voice and spirits. She sang the cavatina, "Qui la voce," from Bellini's "Paritani;" the romance, "Quand je quittai la Normandie," from Meyerbeer's "Robert le Diable;" German melodies, by Mendelssohn and Taubert; and a cavatina from Weber's "Der Freyschütz." There was no other vocalist. Benedict, who accompanied Mdlle. Lind, arrived specially from Stützardt, his native town, to perform at Vivier's concert: he played his own "Idylle" and "Galop," and was much applauded. Herr Cossman performed a long violoncello solo on themes from Rossini's "William Tell." M. Vivier played an adagio in E minor, and Benedict's romance from "The Gipsy's Warning." "Scenes of my Youth," besides a hunting subject in four parts, simultaneously. He was much cheered by the amateurs for his wonderful playing.—Mdlle. Lind arrived in London, via Ostend and Ramsgate, on Monday, and on Wednesday left town for Liverpool, accompanied by Benedict and Vivier.—Edward Loder, the composer, is writing a new opera for the Grand Ducal Theatre in Brunswick, where the work of Mr. Mitchell, the blind musician, was so successfully produced, through the kind instrumentality of Herr Formes.—Now that the London season is about to terminate, the provincial tours of the artists will commence. Mr. Beale has engaged, for the first week in September, Mdlle. Parodi, Mdlle. de Meric, and Signor Coletti, with whom a tenor will be associated, to give Italian operas at Manchester, Liverpool, &c. M. Vivier will be included in this trip. For October and November, Mr. Beale is in negotiation with Miss Catherine Hayes, Herr Formes, and other artists, for a tour in Scotland and Ireland, prior to the departure of Miss Hayes for her engagement as *prima donna* at Rome.—The concerts at Her Majesty's Theatre will commence on the 15th of October, and are to last until the 15th of January. The speculators have secured £3000, it is stated, for the rent to Mr. Lumley for that period. Balfie is to conduct the classical music, and Musard is engaged for the dance compositions. Vocal selections will be included in the programmes.—The *Morning Post* announces that Lablache has renewed his engagement at Her Majesty's Theatre for three years.—M. Julien is organising his Promenade Concerts for next October, at Drury-Lane Theatre, on a large scale.—Mr. Edward Loder is composing a new opera for the Grand Ducal Theatre at Brunswick, where the work of Mr. Mitchell, the blind musician, was produced, owing to the kind recommendation of Herr Formes.

FOREIGN MUSICAL NEWS.—Letters from Weimar state that the inauguration of the statue of the celebrated poet Herder will take place on the 25th inst., on which occasion there will be a musical festival, as well as in commemoration of Goethe's birthday, which is on the 28th inst. Liszt will conduct the performances. On the 24th, Herder's "Prometheus Delivered" will be declaimed at the theatre; Liszt having composed a new overture and choruses for the poem. On the afternoon of the inauguration of the statue, Handel's "Messiah" will be performed at the cathedral church in which Herder preached. As this poet-ecclesiastic was the translator of the English text of the "Messiah" in beautiful German verse, this performance will be doubly interesting.—On the 28th, Richard Wagner's new opera "Lohengrin" will be produced, for which Dingelstadt, the famed poet of Stuttgart, has written a prologue. The members of the Goethe Committee of Berlin will attend this festival.—We learn from Cologne that the celebrated Choral Society of that town proposes to visit London in a body during the Exposition of 1851, and to give three concerts, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to our hospitals, and to the completion of the Cathedral of Cologne.—A new opera-house is to be built in Vienna, on the model of the Fenice, at Venice. Herr Pokorny, jun., has assumed the direction of the An der Wien Theatre. Staudl was singing at the Imperial Theatre, and proposed to pay a farewell visit to London next year.—Nicolai's opera, "The Merry Wives of Windsor," was to be produced at Leipzig, at the autumn fair.—Balfie, immediately after the London season, leaves for Berlin, to produce a new opera for the Royal German Theatre.—The Grand Opera in Paris will be reopened on the 2nd of September, if possible, with Auber's new opera, "L'Enfant Prodigue," but, if the work should not be ready, with Halévy's "Juive," for the first appearance of Roger as the *Jew* goldsmith, and Mdlle. Viardot's *début* in French in *Rachel*, which she has already played in German at Berlin, and in Italian at London.—Mdlle. Tacconi, who left the Italian stage after her marriage with Count Tassca, a distinguished poet of Italy, has been compelled, by revolutionary events, to resume her professional career.—Miss Catherine Hayes has accepted an engagement at Naples, and Miss Louise Pyne will be the *prima donna* at the Italian Opera in Vienna; Miss Miran, the contralto, is singing with success in Italy. Here are three great talents engaged on the Continent, because there is not the most remote chance of an English opera-house in London, all the available theatres being engaged for other purposes, and our tried composers, Wallace, Macfarren, Edward Loder, Balfie, &c., are forced to try their fortunes abroad or starve at home.

THE ITALIAN REFUGEE FUND.—A benefit is announced for next Monday evening, at St. Martin's Hall, in aid of the Italian refugees, at which Grisi, Frezzolini, Parodi, and Viardot, Mario, Gardoni, Tambril, Baucardé, Coletti, and Tamburini, the élite of the two Italian Opera houses, have kindly given their gratuitous services. The prices of admission are very moderate.

A large number of cases of Spanish paintings have arrived in one of the docks by a vessel from Seville, consigned to an eminent metropolitan house.

At a special meeting of the Highland Society of London held on Saturday, the sum of thirty guineas was voted in aid of the funds of the Royal Patriotic Society of Scotland, the approaching cessation of relief operations in the Highlands rendering the extension there of the society's permanent industrial improvements of the utmost importance to the destitute population.

M. Teste, the ex-Minister of France, under Louis Philippe, having completed the term of imprisonment (three years) to which he had been condemned by the Court of Peers, has just been set at liberty.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge are about making a grant of £3000 to the Bishop of Toronto towards securing the endowment of a college of a permanent character in connexion with the Church in his diocese.

MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

Within the last few days an improvement has been evident in the Money Market, arising from a growing demand for advances. At present, however, the discount brokers are too well supplied to make any increase of the allowance "at call" probable, although the current rate of discount may be quoted at least $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. higher.

The English Market has been heavy during the week, marking a decline of about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Wednesday being settling day in Consols, the market gradually drooped as the close of the Account approached, which, having been *bullish*, led to the reaction, from the necessity of selling to close weak accounts. During the past Account Consols have declined about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the unfavourable weather, and the German war, both affording opportunity to the speculators for the fall. On Monday Consols opened at 96 $\frac{1}{2}$, and afterwards receded to 96 $\frac{1}{2}$ in consequence of a large sale on behalf of the Court of Chancery. This supply of stock added to the state of the Account caused a further decline of about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Tuesday, without any favourable reaction succeeding on Wednesday. Thursday was pay-day, and things passed off quietly, but without any improvement in quotations. At the close of the week, prices were dull at the following quotations:—Bank Stock, 212; Three per Cent. Reduced Anns., 97 $\frac{1}{2}$; Three per Cent. Consols Anns., 96 $\frac{1}{2}$; New Three-and-a-half per Cent. Anns., 98 $\frac{1}{2}$; Long Anns. to expire Jan. 1860, 8 5-16; India Bonds, £1000, 89 p.; Ditto, under £1000, 89 p.; Consols for Account, 96 $\frac{1}{2}$; Exchequer Bills, £1000, June, 68 p.; £500, June, 68 p.; Small, June, 68 p.

Business has been very limited in the Foreign market during the week, Mexican showing the greatest fluctuation. The news by the *Gay* is not generally considered favourable, and the amount forwarded towards a dividend being 30,652 dollars, does not promise any immediate probability of payment. The Spanish notes improving prices still, although the market generally is heavy. The following quotations at the close of business will best show the state of things generally:—Brazilian Bonds, 92 $\frac{1}{2}$; Danish Bonds, 1825, Five per Cent., 101 $\frac{1}{2}$; Equador Bonds, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$; Mexican, Five per Cent., 1846, ex Jan. Coupons, 29; Portuguese Five per Cent., 87 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, Converted, 1841, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, Four per Cent., 33 $\frac{1}{2}$; Russian Bonds, Four-and-a-half per Cent., 90 $\frac{1}{2}$; Spanish, Five per

Cent., 1840, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, Three per Cent., 37 $\frac{1}{2}$; Venezuela Bonds, Two-and-a-half per Cent., 35; Dutch, Two-and-a-half per Cent., 12 Guild., 57 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, Four per Cent. Certificates, 89 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Shares are rather firmer. The statement of the London and North-Western Company has not improved the force of the stock, it being conceived that the large balance will be required to meet the reduction in traffic and fares caused by the opening of the Great Northern line. The latter stock remains nearly stationary, and is not likely to improve unless the traffic returns show some extraordinary results. Prices at the close of the week were:—Birmingham and Oxford Junction, calls duly paid, or with a Guarantee, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$; Bristol and Exeter, 63 $\frac{1}{2}$; Eastern Counties, 6; Ditto, New Preference, Six per Cent., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$; East Lancashire, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$; East Lincolnshire, Guaranteed Six per Cent., 28 $\frac{1}{2}$; Great Northern, 9; Ditto, Five per Cent., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$; Great Western, 58 $\frac{1}{2}$; Hull and Selby, 95 $\frac{1}{2}$; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 11; Great Western, 58 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto (West Riding Union), 22 $\frac{1}{2}$; London, Brighton, and South Coast, 80 $\frac{1}{2}$; London and North Western, 111 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, New Quarters, 18; Ditto, Fifths, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$; London and South Western, 60 $\frac{1}{2}$; Midland, 32 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, £50 Shares, 94; Ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 14; Norfolk, 18; North Staffordshire, 63; Reading, Guildford, and Reigate, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$; South Eastern, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, Registered No. 4, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$; Wear Valley, 6 per Cent., Guaranteed, 26; Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth, 42; York, Newcastle, and Berwick (Newcastle Extension), 9 $\frac{1}{2}$; Ditto, G.N.E., Preference, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$; York and North Midland, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$; Boulogne and Amiens, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$; Central of France (Orleans and Vierzon), 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; Luxembourg, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$; Namur and Liege, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$; Northern of France, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$; Rouen and Havre, 9 $\frac{1}{2}$.

THE MARKETS.

CORN-EXCHANGE.—Concourse, as well as by land cargoes, the arrivals of English wheat for our market have been on a very limited scale during the present week. Although the weather has continued changeable, no advance can be noticed in prices; but the demand for all descriptions has ruled steady. About fifty quarters of new wheat have reached us from Essex and Kent, in very middling condition. From abroad the receipts have fallen off. Fine dry qualities have sold to a fair extent, at full rates of currency; and the value of the middling and inferior kinds has been well supported. The barley trade has ruled firm, but we have no improvement to notice in the value of that article. Malt has commanded rather more attention. Oats, beans, peas, and flour have sold freely, at very full prices, notwithstanding that the imports of the latter are liberal.

English.—Wheat, Essex and Kent red, 42s to 45s; ditto, white, 43s to 51s; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 41s to 44s; ditto, white, 43s to 46s; rye, 21s to 23s; grinding barley, 18s to 21s; distilling ditto, 23s to 25s; malted barley, 26s to 28s; Norfolk and Lincoln malt, 41s to 48s; brown ditto, 40s to 41s; Kingston and Ware, 48s to 52s; Chevalier, 52s to 54s; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed oats, 16s to 17s; potato ditto, 18s to 21s; Youghal and Cork, black, 14s to 15s; ditto, white, 14s to 16s; tick beans, new, 25s to 27s; ditto, old, 25s to 28s; grey peas, 23s to 25s; mangel, 24s to 26s; white, 23s to 24s; boilers, 25s to 27s per quarter. Town-made flour, 35s to 40s; Suffolk, 29s to 33s; Kent and Yorkshire, 25s to 33s per 280 lbs. Foreign: Danzig red wheat, 3s to 4s; white, 3s to 4s; barley, 3s to 4s; oats, 3s to 4s; beans, 3s to 4s; peas, 3s to 4s, per quarter. Flour, American, 21s to 23s per barrel; Canada, 3s to 4s per barrel.

The Seed Market.—Canary seed is still heavy, at barely last week's decline in value. All other seeds are nominal. New winter tares have come forward in large quantities. Linseed, English, sowing, 51s to 56s; Italian, crushing, 40s to 42s; Mediterranean, and Olives, 34s to 42s; Hempseed, 32s to 34s per quarter. Coriander, 18s to 21s per cwt. Brown mustard-seed, 9s to 13s; white ditto, 6s to 8s. Tares, 5s to 6s 6d per bushel. English rape-seed, new, £24 to £26 per last of ten quarters. Linseed cakes, English, 48 6s to 49 6s; ditto, foreign, 45 15s to 47 6s per 1000. Rape-seed cakes, 44 15s to 45 10s per ton. Canary, 58s to 63s per quarter. English clover-seed, red, 3s to 4s; extra, 3s to 4s; white, 3s to 4s; extra, up to 4s. Foreign, red, 3s to 4s; extra, 3s to 4s; white, 3s to 4s; extra, 3s to 4s.

Bread.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 61d to 7d; of household ditto, 5d to 6d per 4lb. loaf.

Imported Weekly Average.—Wheat, 41s 1d; barley, 22s 5d; oats, 17s 11d; rye, 23s 8d; beans, 27s 3d; peas, 25s 10d.

The Six Weeks' Average.—Wheat, 42s 7d; barley, 22s 1d; oats, 17s 7d; rye, 23s 3d; beans, 27s 4d; peas, 27s 6d.

Duties.—Wheat, 1s; barley, 1s; oats, 1s; rye, 1s; beans, 1s; peas, 1s.

Tea.—For all kinds of tea, our market is very firm, and prices are well supported in every instance. Common sound Congou is selling at 114d to 1s 10d per lb. The show of samples is comparatively small.

Sugar.—Most qualities of raw sugar have met with a less active inquiry this week; but we have no change to notice in the general quotations. Refined goods are steady; brown lumps are producing 50s per cwt; crushed parcels are steady.

Coffee.—Only about 500 bags good ordinary native Ceylon have changed hands, at 41s per cwt. In all other kinds of coffee, only a small business is doing.

Rice.—The importers have succeeded in advancing the quotations quite 3d per cwt; but the demand is by no means active.

Provisions.—Dutch butter, the supply of which was small, is in good request, and rather dearer. Fine Friesland, 74s to 76s; and inferior, 68s to 69s per cwt. The best Irish butter moves off steadily, at very full prices, and we have more inquiry for forward shipment. Carlow, Clonmel, and Kilkenny brands, landed, 60s to 64s; Waterford, 51s to 60s; Cork, 67s. Limerick, 62s to 64s; Tralee, 60s per cwt; English butter is producing 2s per cwt. more money: fine Dorset, 78s to 80s; inferior, ditto, 68s to 69s; Devon, 68s to 70s per cwt; fresh, 8s to 11s per dozen lbs. Irish bacon has advanced 3s per cwt; prime sizeable Waterford, selling at 60s per cwt. Waterford bladdered lard, 50s to 52s; and firkins, 38s to 42s per cwt.

Tallow.—P.Y.C. on the spot is selling at 35s 6d per cwt, being a slight decline in value. For forward delivery, the quotation is 37s 3d. Town tallow, 35s 3d to 35s 6d per cwt, net cash.

Oils.—Sperm, southern, and seal oils are in good request, at full prices. In olive and rape very little is doing. Lined firm, at 40s to 42s per cwt.

Spirits.—The market for fine parcels of West India rum is firm; and we have more inquiry for brandy, at fully previous rates. In Geneva and corn spirits, very little is doing.

Coal.—Biddle's West Hartley, 13s 9d; Lewick and Co., 13s 9d; Gosford, 13s 6d; Hutton, 13s 3d; Lambton, 13s; Richmond, 13s per ton.

Hay and Straw.—Old Lincolnshire hay, 42s to 43 16s; new ditto, 42s 5d to 43; old clover, 43 16s to 44 8s; new ditto, 43 16s; and straw, 41s to 41 8s per load.

Hops.—The plantation accounts are very favourable; hence the demand is heavy, and the duty is called £200,000.

Wool.—There is still a firm inquiry for nearly all kinds of wool, and late rates are well supported in every instance.

Wool.—Large supplies are still coming forward. Although a good business is doing, prices rule from 40s to 75s per ton.

Smithfield.—Each kind of fat stock has been in good supply and moderate inquiry, at the following terms:—

Beef, from 2s 6d to 3s 10d; mutton, 3s to 4s; lamb, 3s 8d to 4s 8d; veal, 2s 10d to 3s 10d; and pork, 3s 2d to 4s 8d, to sink the oil.

Neat and Lamb.—The general demand has ruled steady, at full rates of currency.

Beef, from 2s 2d to 3s 6d; mutton, 2s 8d to 3s 10d; lamb, 3s 6d to 4s 6d; veal, 2s 8d to 3s 10d; and pork, 2s 10d to 3s 10d per 100 lbs by the carcass.

R. HERBERT.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

WAR-OFFICE, AUG. 9.

14th Light Dragoons: Regimental Sergeant Major T Bennett to be Quartermaster, vice Shenton.

7th Foot: Major L W Yea to be Lieut-Col. vice Brevet-Col Farquharson; Capt Hon St V Trobridge to be Major, vice Yea; Lieutenant G W Will on to be Captain, vice Trobridge. 13th: Captain A E F Holcombe to be Major, vice Meredith; Lieutenant A Talbot to be Captain, vice Holcombe; Ensign H M Jones to be Lieutenant, vice Talbot. 36th: Lieutenant D Tom to be Captain, vice Lecky; Ensign J F Harvey to be Lieutenant, vice Tom. 4th: Lieut H A Sanford to be Captain, vice Irev Major Ford; Lieut F B Bruere to be Captain, vice the Honourable T G Cholmondeley; Ensign the Honourable W C Ward to be Lieutenant, vice Sanford; Fusilier A E V Pansohy to be Lieutenant, vice Bruere; Ensign H J P Booth to be Lieut, vice Paul. 51st: Capt H W Hare to be Major, vice Rice; Lieut A I Irby to be Capt, vice Hare; Ensign G O Nunn to be Lieut, vice Irby. 56th: Acting Assistant Surgeon J Lawson to be Assist-Surgeon, vice Cashell. 60th: Lieut N H Shute to be Captain, vice Jeffery; Ensign A Applewhite to be Lieut, vice Shute; Ensign T A Mackinnon to be Ensign, vice Applewhite. 67th: Ensign C Matthews has been permitted to retire from the service by the sale of his commission. 70th: Capt G Durnford to be Major, vice Edwards; Lieut J E Addison to be Captain, vice Durnford; Ensign A Penton to be Lieut, vice Addison; Ensign I Brown to be Ensign, vice Gray. 77th: Lieut G H S Willis to be Adjutant, vice O'Brien. 84th: Ensign J Gordon to be Lieutenant, vice Hutton.

Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment: Ensign P Hopkins to be Lieutenant, vice Fford.

COMMISSIONS SIGNED BY LORDS-LIEUTENANT.

North Hants Yeomanry Cavalry.—The Hon R A Arundell to be Cornet, vice Fleming. Donaghmore Yeomanry Cavalry.—J Williams, M.P. to be Cornet, vice Lloyd; W Rowland to be Lieutenant, vice J Roberts; W Roberts to be Cornet, vice Rowland.

The Earl of Chester's Regiment of Horse.—The Hon R A Arundell to be Lieutenant, vice Fenton; J H Leche to be Cornet, vice Potts.

BANKRUPTS.

R G WARD, Brownlow-street, Drury-lane, currier. T W DORNFORD, Suffolk-lane, Cannon-street, wine-merchant. F BENNETT, Clapham, Surrey, adobe-water manufacturer. T CLARKE, Newport, Monmouthshire, grocer. S PARNALL, East Lodge, Cornwall, grocer. G WILLIS, Hinchinell, Sheffield, Yorkshire, manufacturer. W BRIDDON, Boot, Liverpool, manufacturing chemist. E HYRONS, John-street, Tottenham-court road, pianoforte manufacturer. H C KNEEL, Baldevore-road, Lambeth, timber-merchant.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

J. FOREMAN,

SUNDAY POSTAL COMMUNICATION.—REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.

The following is the report of the Commission on the recent Sunday postal arrangements, which was laid before the House of Commons on Tuesday last:—

TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

My Lords,—In compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's letter of the 18th ult., we have carefully investigated the question referred to us, viz. "whether the amount of Sunday labour in the Post-Office might not be reduced, without completely putting an end to the collection and delivery of letters, &c., on Sundays," and we have the honour to report as follows:—

Your Lordships are aware that this question has arisen out of a change in the Post-Office arrangements, which was made by the Postmaster-General on the 23d June last, in consequence of an assurance given by her Majesty, in answer to an address of the House of Commons, agreed to on the 30th of May last, representing the great desire which exists in all parts of the United Kingdom, for an extension of that rest on the Lord's-day which is afforded in the London Post-Office to the post-offices of the provincial towns, and praying her Majesty to direct that the collection and delivery of letters shall in future entirely cease on Sunday in all parts of the kingdom. The nature and extent of this change will be best seen by referring to the "Notice" issued by the Postmaster-General for carrying it into effect; but we may state briefly that it involved the suspension of the delivery, collection, and dispatch of letters on the Sunday, throughout the United Kingdom.

We understand that, by the reduction of Sunday labour referred to in your Lordships' instructions, is meant a reduction in the Sunday labour as it existed before the 23d of June.

Prior to that date the state of the Post-Office, as regards Sunday labour, was as follows:—During the previous two years and a half, the Postmaster-General had been engaged in carrying into effect a series of carefully-considered measures, with the view "of affording to all connected with the Post-Office the utmost amount of rest on the Sunday," which, in the opinion of his Lordship, "is consistent with a due regard to public convenience."

These measures are fully described in a report to the Postmaster-General, on the 28th of Jan. last, by Mr. Rowland Hill, which has been laid before Parliament; and a statement is there given of the amount of Sunday relief which had at that time been afforded.

At the date of this report, the relief was, for the most part, confined to England and Wales; but before the address of the 30th of May, it had been extended to Ireland and Scotland, and some other important improvements, described in the same report as then in progress, had been completed.

We find that by these several measures, 8424 persons had been relieved on Sunday to an average extent of nearly six hours each; that the Sunday transmission of numerous mails had been altogether stopped; that the ordinary rule in the provincial offices was for the office to close finally (except for the receipt and dispatch of certain mails) at 10 o'clock A.M.; and that the Sunday deliveries had in all cases been reduced to one; while in the London office, by a transfer of duty to two travelling corps of five clerks each, working in the railway-carriages—the one during Saturday night, and the other during Sunday night—the ordinary Sunday force, which was originally 27 men, and which in October last was temporarily increased to 52, had been reduced to 4, viz. 1 clerk and 3 messengers. These arrangements, we may add, by reducing to a minimum the letters for London itself brought in on the Sunday, are wholly inconsistent with the possibility of a Sunday delivery in London; a measure, indeed, which, as your Lordships are aware, was never contemplated.

With the view of ascertaining the effects of the late change, which first came into operation on the 23d of June, the Postmaster-General, at our request, called for certain information from the Superintendent of the Inland-Office, and issued certain queries to the surveyors for England and Wales. These documents are given in the appendix.

While the surveyors concur generally in regarding the recent change as objectionable, they show considerable diversity of opinion on minor points, as might naturally be expected from a number of gentlemen pursuing independent inquiries, and guided by the varying circumstances and opinions of their respective districts. From this very diversity one conclusion seems obvious—viz. that it is hazardous to make a general change, such as that recently introduced, without previous inquiry into the effects which it is likely to produce in the various districts over which its operation may extend, and such modifications as the requirements of different localities may demand.

As regards the chief office in London, and the minor metropolitan offices within a radius of six miles, the change in question has left everything untouched.

As regards the provincial offices, we are enabled to state that the principal relief afforded is to the letter-carriers, more especially those serving the rural districts.

But whatever may be the amount of relief afforded to the servants of the Post-Office, there can be no doubt that it has been obtained at a great sacrifice of convenience to the public; for though, amidst the numerous communications we have received on the subject, there are many urging the continuance of the arrangement, yet, having regard to the general tenor and to the serious specific inconveniences complained of in many of them, as also to the results of our own inquiries, we have come to the conclusion that the evils attaching to the change press heavily upon a large portion of the public (not excepting the poorer classes, who cannot bear the expense of secondary communication), and have excited in many quarters a strong feeling of dissatisfaction.

Among the evils adverted to above, the following may be specified, viz. delay and inconvenience in the correspondence, arising out of the transactions of the country markets, when they fall, as they frequently do, on the Saturday; increased risk of theft or loss arising from the detention during Sunday, of money letters (many of which contain large remittances); obstacles to the insurance of vessels, with delay in the announcement of their arrivals and departures; hindrance to the detection of crime, and to the general administration of the law;

delay in the transmission of information and directions respecting legal and other sorts of business; inconvenience to travellers, and delay in procuring medical aid, and in summoning friends and relatives in case of sudden illness or approaching death.

In confirmation of these views we may refer to numerous petitions to Parliament complaining of the recent change.

Some idea of the extent to which these evils must exist is afforded by the following facts:—1. The number of letters arriving on the Monday morning in London has been reduced by the recent change from about 212,000 to 127,000, being a reduction of about 85,000, or 40 per cent., so that, in London alone, at least that number of letters must be delayed every week, while the number is made up by an increase on Tuesday and the following days, though probably not to the full extent. 2. The number of letters leaving London on the Saturday night is about 140,000, the greater part of which reaching their destination on the Sunday, are not delivered till Monday. Moreover, the number of letters despatched from London on Saturday night has, as was natural, been reduced by their non-delivery on Sunday. The extent of this reduction appears hitherto to have averaged nearly 15,000.

3. Whereas, previous to the recent change, the correspondence between one provincial town and another was not interrupted at all; now all the letters posted on the Sunday, the greater part of those posted on the Saturday, and many posted on the Friday and even earlier, are delayed (either in despatch or delivery) throughout the United Kingdom. Taking these circumstances into account, we are of opinion that probably one-seventh of all the general post letters distributed by the Post-Office, or more than 700,000 a week, are now delayed, or altogether suppressed, in consequence of the recent change. This is exclusive of a very large number of newspapers.

The extent of these delays, and the manner in which they arise, are fully explained in an able report by Mr. William Johnson, the surveyor of the home district.

The reasons which render a complete suspension of dispatch and delivery on the Sunday expedient in London do not apply to the same measure when extended to other parts of the country. Residents in London can no longer dispatch letters on Saturday night with the expectation of receiving answers on the Monday morning; while residents in the provincial towns, who previously suffered the same interruption in their correspondence with London on one day of the week, are now subjected to the additional inconvenience on the second day.

The truth, therefore, appears to be, that, unless the suspension of Post-office action on the Sunday be limited to the metropolis, it must be productive of very serious inconvenience.

It must also be remembered, that, under the old arrangement, it was possible for a resident in London to provide for the receipt or dispatch of a letter on the Sunday, by sending to a post town beyond the twelve-mile circle. This expedient, so frequently resorted to in cases of emergency, prevented the people of London from ever before feeling, in all its force, the inconveniences arising from a total suspension of Sunday dispatch.

Where the legitimate modes of conveyance are thus interrupted on every side, it is natural that other modes should be devised; and thus have arisen (as there is reason to apprehend) evasions of the law, or, at all events, substitutional modes of conveyance, involving not only loss of revenue, but also Sunday labour in a new form. Looking further to the extensive arrangements now made for the Sunday distribution of newspapers, and to others waiting the decision of this question, as also to the economy of labour in the organised arrangements of the Post-Office, we are not satisfied that the general effect of the measure would be to diminish Sunday labour.

The Sunday distribution of newspapers, referred to above, arises of course from the fact that so many of the weekly papers, whether in London or the country, are published on the Saturday. And the refusal of the Post-Office to deliver these journals as usual has been felt by both proprietors and readers as a great hardship.

For further information as to the effects of the recent change, we must recur to the reports of the surveyors.

Having regard to these various reasons, we consider the restriction established by the recent order not only as inexpedient, but ineffectual, for its main purpose.

In exercising a monopoly of postal conveyance, the Government, as it appears to us, takes upon itself the duty of forwarding the public correspondence without any delay, which may not be demanded by reasons of the most cogent nature. We need not point out that the Post-Office is not the only branch of the public service in which a certain amount of Sunday labour is required; and it may be added, that the general practice of delivering and dispatching letters on the Sunday in all parts of the United Kingdom except London (including even Dublin and Edinburgh), dates back, so far as we are aware, from the first regular establishment of a Post-Office in this kingdom; while the non-delivery of letters in London on the same day appears to have an equally early origin.

With a view, therefore, of making a reduction in the amount of Sunday labour in the Post-Office, as it existed immediately before the 23d of June last, without completely putting an end to the collection and delivery of letters and other Post-Office packets on Sundays, we recommend the adoption of the following arrangement:—

With regard to the London Post-Office, we think that the system which was in force at the time specified, and which has not been affected by the recent order, should be continued.

With regard to the provincial Post-Offices, we recommend that a delivery of letters on the Sunday should be resumed, subject to the following restrictions, many of which have been sanctioned by the previous practice of the department:—

1. That there be only one delivery and one collection.
2. That the delivery be made at such a time as shall not interfere with the hours of Divine service, especially of morning service.
3. That this delivery be made either by letter-carriers or at the window of the Post-Office, according to the practice previously pursued on Sundays in each place. In Edinburgh, Glasgow, and most other towns of Scotland, it has been the practice to deliver letters only at the window on Sunday. The inhabitants of these towns have become habituated to the arrangement, and we do not therefore advise its discontinuance; but we do not propose its extension to other towns, where such a usage has never

been introduced, because it affords less convenience and security to the public, while it affords no diminution of Sunday labour.

4. That, as far as possible, every Post-Office be closed on a Sunday at 10 A.M. for the remainder of the day, with the necessary exceptions arising from the late arrival of mails, which have heretofore existed.

5. That no money payments for inland letters be received at the Post-Office on a Sunday; and that no such letters be received except such as are stamped or unpaid.

6. That whenever the letters which were delivered on the Sunday morning reach their destination by 8 o'clock on Saturday night (which is the case in some of the more remote parts of the kingdom), the delivery be made the same night, instead of on the Sunday morning.

7. That where the duties are such as to prevent the rural letter-carrier from attending Divine service, an arrangement be made for providing a substitute at least on alternate Sundays. We apprehend that the additional cost incurred by this arrangement would be justified by the importance of its object.

8. That, in retaining a Sunday delivery of letters in a rural district, the Postmaster-General be guided by the prevalent feeling of the locality; and that where the prevalent feeling of the district is opposed to such delivery, the Postmaster-General, after satisfying himself of the fact, take the requisite steps for suspending it. This principle has already been acted on to a considerable extent by the department. The Postmaster-General, in the years 1848 and 1849, withdrew no less than 404 Sunday rural posts—320 wholly and 84 partially. In some instances, however, the inhabitants, finding the withdrawal more inconvenient than they anticipated, subsequently requested that the post might be restored, which was accordingly done.

9. That an option be afforded to every householder to suspend the Sunday delivery of letters at his house, on his written application to the local post-office. It would be necessary that this permission should be guarded by proper regulations of the department, in order to prevent the inconvenience which would arise from frequent changes.

10. That the arrangements already made by the Postmaster-General for the withdrawal on the Sunday of comparatively useless mails be continued upon the same principles which have been already adopted, and that they be rendered as complete as possible.

We would also recommend to the attention of the Postmaster-General the suggestions made by the surveyors, with a view to his considering hereafter how far it may be practicable to carry any of them into effect.

(Signed) CLANNICARDE.
H. LABOUCHERE.
G. CORNEWALL LEWIS.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MORNING READING.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—MRS. FANNY KEMBLE will, in compliance with numerous applications, give a Morning Reading, on MONDAY NEXT, AUGUST 19, commencing at 10 o'clock, at the Theatre of St. James's, in the play of "KING LEAR." Boxes and Stalls may be secured at Mr. Mitchell's, Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street, and at the Box Office.

MR. WRIGHT'S BENEFIT.—THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—Under the Immediate Patronage of the Right Hon. the LORD MAYOR and Mr. SHERIFF NICOLL, Mr. WRIGHT has the honour to announce, that his BENEFIT will take place on THURSDAY, AUGUST 22nd, when will be presented the laughable Comedy of PAUL PRY. After which, DOMESTIC ECONOMY. A variety of other Entertainments.—Private Boxes and Tickets to be had at the Box-Office, and of Mr. WRIGHT, Merton Villa, King's Parade, Chelsea.

THE ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION, at the Gallery, 33, Pall-Mall, is now OPEN to the Public FREE, except on Saturdays, the admission then being One Shilling. GEORGE H. JACKMAN, Secy. JAMES K. COLLING, J. H. Secretaries.

N. Y. Y.—Received yours GLADLY.—U. S. A. S. is married again. Write again in perfect confidence. 25, PALL-MALL, LONDON.

MEDICAL, INVALID, AND GENERAL LIFE OFFICE.—HEALTHY AND DISPOSED LIVES ASSURED at the Lowest Premiums consistent with safety. A Bonus of Two per cent. per Annum was added to the Policies at the last Division of Profits. F. G. P. NEISON, Actuary. C. DOUGLAS RINGER, Secretary.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL, AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY. Established 1824.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the USUAL DIVIDEND OF FIVE PER CENT. (less INCOME-TAX) on the paid-up capital on the shares of the SOCIETY, will be payable at this Office on and after Tuesday, the 20th day of August.

AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT just obtained, enables this Society to give IMPORTANT BENEFITS to PERSONS now ASSURING, the particulars of which are set forth in a REPORT, which can be obtained of any of the Society's Agents, or by applying to GEORGE H. JACKMAN, Secy., 59, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, London.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION OF 1851. THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS IN THREE LANGUAGES.

The Proprietors of THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS have the honour to announce to their readers and the public generally, that they have made arrangements for the publication of a complete, carefully written, and profusely illustrated History and Description of the GREAT EXHIBITION OF THE INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS, to be held in London in 1851. During the whole period of the Exhibition they will issue a Series of SUPPLEMENTS to THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, containing the fullest and most authentic Reports of the Proceedings, and Descriptions of the various Objects of Art and Manufacture, with Illustrations designed by the most competent Artists, and executed in the highest style of Wood-Engraving.

No expense will be spared to make the Publication, in all respects, worthy of the great undertaking, of which it will form the permanent Record, and its price, as well as excellence, will be such as will not only defy all possible competition, but place it within the reach of all classes of the community.

In order, also, that the Artists and Manufacturers of Foreign Nations, who shall send their productions to this Exhibition of the World's Industry and Skill, may have the full and most authentic Reports of the Proceedings, and Descriptions of the various Objects of Art and Manufacture, with Illustrations designed by the most competent Artists, and executed in the highest style of Wood-Engraving.

GRANDE EXPOSITION DE 1851. ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS EN TROIS LANGAGES.

Les Propriétaires de l'ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS ont l'honneur d'annoncer au public Français, qu'ils ont disposé avec de grands soins une complète publication écrite et profusément illustrée de l'histoire et de la description de la GRANDE EXPOSITION DE L'INDUSTRIE DE TOUS LES PEUPLES, qui se tiendra à Londres en 1851. Pendant toute la durée de l'Exposition, ils publieront une série de SUPPLÉMENTS à l'ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, contenant les plus complets et plus authentiques rapports des Procédés et de la description des Objets variés d'Art et de la Manufacture, avec des illustrations dessinées par les plus compétents artistes, et exécutées avec la plus grande perfection, en Gravure sur Bois.

Aucune dépense sera épargnée pour rendre la Publication en tous points digne de la grande Exposition du Monde Entier, de la quelle elle formera un permanent Record. Son prix, aussi bien que son excellence, seront tels qu'elle trouvera place dans tous les rangs de la société.

Afin, aussi, que les Artistes et Manufacturiers des Nations Etrangères, qui enverront leurs productions à cette Exposition d'Industrie, puissent avoir l'immense avantage du permanent et intelligible Rapport d'un événement aussi intéressant et important, les SUPPLÉMENTS de l'ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS seront publiés en FRANÇAIS, en ALLEMAND, aussi bien qu'en ANGLAIS.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS IN DREI SPRACHEN.

DIE GROSSE KUNST- und GEWERB-AUSSTELLUNG ALLE NATIONEN, in 1851.

Die Eigentümer der ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS beehren sich hiermit dem deutschen Publikum die Anzeige zu machen, dass sie eine sorgsam abgefasste und vollständig illustrierte Beschreibung der GROSSEN KUNST- und GEWERB-AUSSTELLUNG ALLE NATIONEN, welche im Jahre 1851 in London statt finden wird, herauszugeben beabsichtigen. Während der ganzen Dauer dieser Ausstellung wird die ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS mit einer Reihe von GROSSEN BELAGEN erscheinen, welche genaue und authentische Berichte von allem was in Betreff dieser Ausstellung Interesse biethet, eine ausführliche Beschreibung der verschiedenen Kunst- und Gewerbe-Erzeugnisse und reichhaltige ILLUSTRATIONEN, gezeichnet von den ersten Künstlern und ausgeführt in Holzschnitt der ersten Classe, enthalten werden.

Die Eigentümer der ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS schätzen keine Kosten das beabsichtigte Werk dem grossen Publikum, in jeder Beziehung, würdig zu machen. Wir damit eine treue und genaue Beschreibung jener grossen Ausstellung zu übergeben welche als bleibende, allgemein-nützliche Beziehungen-Autorität dienen wird, und zwar in einer so eleganten Form und zu einem so niedrigen Preise dass, während die Anschaffung derselben allen Classen leicht wird, sie mit der Eleganz in den Salons der Reichen harmonisirt.

Um anderen Nationen, und besonders deren Künstlern und Fabrikanten, die Gelegenheit zu geben, sich eine treue und leicht verständliche Beschreibung der grossen Ausstellung zu verschaffen, werden die SUPPLÉMENTS der ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS in DEUTSCHER und FRANZÖSISCHER, sowohl als in ENGLISCHER Sprache, erscheinen.

NEW BOOKS, &c.

NEW, CHEAP, and UNIFORM EDITION of the AMERICAN POETS, beautifully printed, in royal 21mo., price 2s., cloth, gilt edges. SIGOURNEY'S POETICAL WORKS, with Introduction. Also, uniform, price 2s. each, LONGFELLOW'S complete POETICAL WORKS, WHITTIER'S complete POETICAL WORKS, WILLIS'S (N. P.) complete POETICAL WORKS. London: G. ROUTLEDGE and Co., Soho-square, and all Booksellers.

HOLMES' POPULAR LIBRARY.—A New series of the young—The BOOK OF WONDERS; or, Perils and Adventures by the Sea and Land. Vol. I. "Uncle Humphrey's Tales and Narratives." Vol. II. "Scenes and Stories from the Bible." Vol. III. "Grandmother Gregory's Treasury of Knowledge." Each illustrated with Fine Engravings; price one shilling.—THOMAS HOLMES' Great Book Establishment, 76, St. Paul's Churchyard.

THE CHEAPEST HISTORY OF ENGLAND EVER ISSUED FROM THE PRESS.

Just published, the Fifth Volume of JOHN CASSELL'S LIBRARY; being the commencement of a NEW and POPULAR HISTORY of ENGLAND, by Dr. ROBERT FERGUSON, of Hyde. It will be completed in Four Monthly Volumes, each containing 114 pages, price 6d., or in Two Double Volumes, bound in cloth, price 1s. 4d. each. It will be seen, therefore, that this History of England, containing 576 pages, will be obtainable for 2s., or for 2s. 8d. neatly bound in cloth. At the same time, it will form one of the most able and interesting works ever issued from the press; the object of Dr. FERGUSON's History being not merely to exhibit a record of the events of the People, but to present a faithful and instructive History of the People, with their progress in industrial arts and social amelioration. All persons desirous of being supplied with copies of the First Edition of 20,000, should give their orders immediately to the nearest Bookseller.

The prices of the WORKING MAN'S LIBRARY are as follow:—Single Volume, 6d.; Double Volume (or two in one), 1s.; bound in cloth, 1s. 4d. 1st and 2nd Vols. are entitled "Sailings over the Globe," 3rd and 4th, "The Footprints of Travellers."

Just published, THE MODERN LINGUIST; or, Conversations in English, French, and German; preceded by Rules for the Pronunciation of German, a copious Vocabulary, and a Selection of Familiar Phrases; and followed by Models of Receipts, Bills of Exchange, Letters, &c. of the English, French, and German Languages, and of the English and French Weights and Measures. By ALBERT BARTHELS. In square 16mo., neatly bound in cloth, price 3s. 6d.

2. The same Work in ENGLISH and GERMAN. 18mo., cloth, price 2s. 6d.

3. The same Work in ENGLISH and FRENCH. 18mo., cloth, price 2s. 6d.

It has been the aim of the compiler of these Works to introduce only such phrases and expressions as refer more exclusively to the current topics of the day; and he believes they will be found more practically useful to the student and to the traveller than the majority of Guides and Dialogue Books hitherto published.

London: D. NUTT, 270, Strand.

In Penny Numbers and Sixpenny Parts.

THE LATE SIR R. PEEL'S SPEECHES. Nos. 1 and 2 now ready.—This Edition will be printed in demy 8vo. on good paper, and will include every Speech delivered by this lamented Statesman from his first entrance into Public Life in 1810 down to his last Speech delivered in the House of Commons. A Number will be published every Saturday, and a Part with the Monthly Magazine.—London: G. ROUTLEDGE and Co., Soho-square, and all Booksellers.

NEW MUSIC.

NEW SONG.—"ETHEREAL VOICES SPEAK TO ME."—Sung by Miss CATHERINE HAYES. Written by EMILY FARDELL. Music by Miss A. S. MOHRIS, of the Royal Academy of Music. Price 2s. Published by J. SUMMAN, 9, Fetter Hall, Strand.—To order of all Music-sellers, by post, for 21 stamps.

NEW SONG.—THE HAUNTS OF THE CHAMOIS. Composed by ALEXANDER LEE. Price 2s. (sent post free).—In this song Mr. Lee has given a happy imitation of the Swiss style, retaining its character, but giving a fresh and beautiful melody. Miss Eliza Nelson, who sings it every evening at Vauxhall, has created quite a sensation by her effective and pleasing execution of the song.—London: DUFF and HOBSON, 65, Oxford-street, where may be had ALEXANDER LEE's celebrated "Duchess of Dryadens," sung by Miss Eliza Nelson and Miss Fanny Huddart, with the greatest success.

LE PROPHETE, as performed at the Royal Italian Opera, with Piano-forte Accompaniment; Folio Edition, with Italian words, complete, 42s.; Quarto Edition, 20s. Various Arrangements of the Opera, as Single Pieces and Duets for the Piano-forte, by Callcott, Osborne, Benedict, Richards, Burgmüller, and J. Herz, from 2s. to 6s. each. CRAMER, BEALE, and Co., 201, Regent-street.

"LA FLEUR du BAL," Waltz, by J. G. CALLCOTT.—"A graceful waltz, the melody of which is exceedingly pretty."—See Musical Review, August 1st. Also the "MAGNET POLKA" by the same Composer.—"Mr. Calcott has shown much musical feeling and vigour of thought and execution in the above publications."—See Musical Review, August 1st. Published by CRAMER, BEALE, and Co., 201, Regent-street, and 67, Conduit-street.

NEW PIANO-FORTE MUSIC.

FIDELIO, 2s.—Le Prophete, 4s.—Sonnambula, 2s.—Norma, 2s.—Lucrèce, 3s.—Don Juan, 2s.—Figaro, 2s.—Les Huguenots, 4s.—Lucia, 4s.—Stabat Mater, 3s.—Puritani, 2s.; and thirty other Operas, all at music sale, 2s. each, in THE PIANISTA, at the Pianists' Office, 67, Paternoster-row, and 16a, Argyll-street, affordable. Any opera, post free, 30 stamps, or ten orders, 7s. 6d. Catalogues gratis. "The piano-forte arrangements of these operas are the best in Europe."—Atlas, May 11, 1850.

HAMILTON'S MODERN INSTRUCTIONS for the PIANO, fingered by Czerny, Seventeenth Edition, large music folio, containing the most complete and accurate examples on the Rudiments of Music fingering, &c., and illustrated by 61 Preludes and favourite Airs, 48 Exercises, 12 Chants, and 4 Sacred Songs for Voice and Piano, price only 4s.; and Thirty-fifth Edition of his Dictionary of 3500 Musical Terms, price 1s. London: H. COCKS and Co., New Burlington-street, Publishers to her Majesty.

PIANOFORTES.—CRAMER, BEALE, and CO. have a great variety of NEW and SECOND-HAND PIANOFORTES, including Grand and Broadwood's also, Cottage Pianofortes by the most esteemed makers, English and Foreign, for SALE or HIRE. The Instruments are warranted, and may be exchanged, if not approved of. 201, Regent-street; and 67, Conduit-street.

BOUDOIR ORGAN.—A unique and elegant addition to the Boudoir or Drawing-room, in richly-carved case, 3 feet wide, 6 feet 6 inches high, containing stopped diapason treble and bass, dulciant-flute principle, and octave of pedals. The tone, chaste design, and size of these instruments do away with the usual objection to the ordinary Chamber Organ. Manufactured by BENVINGTON and SONS, Organ Builders, 48, Greek-street, Soho square.

MR. COST, PROFESSOR OF DANCING, begs leave to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and the public, that he has REMOVED from Camden-town, to 6, CLAPHAM-ROAD PLACE, KENSINGTON, near the Church, where the members of the family, who have been educated for the amusement of "A. K. C.," may be obtained in PLANT ELASTIC CALISTHENIC CHEST EXPANDED, with books of reference, explanatory plates, &c.

PRIVATE EDUCATION.—Six Young Gentlemen are received into the family of a Clergyman near Town, who makes the Education of Youth his study, and has a large family of young men to be prepared for College, and has at present a Vacancy. "A. K. C.," care of Messrs. DAILY BROTHERS, Stationers, 3, Royal Exchange-buildings, Cornhill.

TUTOR FOR COLLEGE.—A Clergyman, M.A., late Fellow of his College, and a University Examiner, residing not far from London, and receiving into his family a very few young men to be prepared for College, has at present a Vacancy. Several of his Pupils are now in each University, to whose friends references will be offered, as well as to a large body of distinguished Scholars and Clergymen in Oxford, Cambridge, and London.—Address, Rev. S. S., Clerical Registry, 36, Southampton-street, Strand, London.

SUPERIOR ESTABLISHMENT for EDUCATION OF YOUNG LADIES.—In a highly-respectable SCHOOL, conducted by a Lady and her Daughters, there will be VACANCIES for a few additional Pupils at Michaelmas. The Young Ladies are instructed exclusively by members of the family, who have been educated for their profession, and devote themselves to the best interests of their Pupils. Masters attend for the accomplishments. The House was built expressly for a School, and is arranged with every comfort that the most anxious parent can desire. A large Garden is devoted to the use of the Young Ladies, and a little plot is set apart for the amusement of each. The situation is particularly healthful—one hour and a quarter from town by rail. References to gentlemen in town, whose daughters either are or have been pupils.—Terms—which are moderate—may be obtained on application by letter, addressed to "J. C.," care of THOMAS PRYER, Esq., F.S.A., 11, Artillery-place, Finsbury-square, London.

BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK.—The original, and by far the best, requiring no preparation, offers the surest means of protection for every variety of household linen and wearing-apparel against loss or mistake; for which reason be careful to see for the genuine article, prepared by the Inventor, JOHN BOND, 28, Long-lane, West Smithfield, City.—Sold by most Chemists, Stationers, and Medicine-vendors. Price, 1s. a bottle.

GLENFIELD STARCH.—The ladies are respectfully requested to make a trial of this starch, which, for domestic use, is second to none. Sold by all shopkeepers. Agents wanted; apply to Mr. ROBERT WOTHERSPOON, 40, Dunlop-street, Glasgow.



THE NEW STEAM-PACKET, "HER MAJESTY."

CHRIST CHURCH, PITSMOOR, SHEFFIELD.

This church has just been erected by private subscription, aided by grants from the incorporated society, and the church commissioners, to supply the spiritual wants of one of the new districts into which the parish of Sheffield has lately been divided. The building is, throughout, of the early decorated period of Gothic architecture; and, although the limited funds at the disposal of the architects did not allow of any attempt at ornamental display, great care has been taken, by judiciously disposing the masses of the building, to secure a pleasing outline, as well as a complete ecclesiastical character. It is built of dressed wallstone, with ashlar jambs to the windows, and cleansed stone pillars between the nave and aisles. It consists of nave, north and south aisle, porch, transepts, chancel, and western tower. There are no galleries except small ones for children in the transepts and tower. The church will seat 618 adults and 224 children. Of these, all except 266 are free. The cost of the building is within a few pounds of the architects' estimate of £2000. The consecration took place on Thursday last, on which occasion the sermon was preached by his Grace the Archbishop of York. The architects are Messrs. Flockton and Son, of Sheffield.

THE "CITY OF PARIS," STEAMER.

This beautiful vessel, the first sea-going steamer built at Greenwich, was launched from the premises of Messrs. W. Joyce and Co., of the Greenwich Iron-Works, on Saturday last. The *City of Paris* is an iron steam-ship, built for the Commercial Steam Navigation Company, and intended to ply with passengers and goods between London and Boulogne.

She is constructed from the design of Oliver W. Lang, Esq., and is considered an admirable specimen of the skill of that eminent naval architect.

The principal dimensions are:—

Length between the perpendiculars ..	165 feet
Breadth of beam ..	23 feet
Depth of hold ..	14 feet
Draught of water ..	6 feet 6 inches
Burthen ..	425 tons.

The vessel and engines are constructed by Messrs. W. Joyce and Co.

The engines are of the collective power of 120 horses, and are of the direct action kind. Each piston has two rods, between which there is a recess in the piston which allows of a corresponding recess in the cylinder covers, and thereby permits the connecting rods to descend considerably lower than is practicable in the single rod direct

action engine. The arrangement is compact and simple; and, by the cylinders being fixed, an important advantage is secured. These engines occupy less space than any other description of marine condensing engines yet known; and both engines and boilers may be taken as a fair specimen of the great reduction of space and weight effected by modern arrangements over

lady of one of the proprietors, went through the usual formalities of breaking a bottle of wine against the steamer's bows, and bestowing on her the name of the *City of Paris*; the dog-shore was knocked away, and the vessel glided beautifully into the river under a salute of twenty-one guns, accompanied by the enlivening strains of a band playing the old country-dance tune, "Off she goes," and the reiterated cheers of the spectators afloat and ashore.

After the launch an excellent collation was given by Mr. Joyce to a select party.

PORTSMOUTH AND RYDE ROYAL MAIL PACKET "HER MAJESTY."

This beautiful little craft, built for the mail service between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, has just been launched from the building-yard of Messrs. Robinson and Russell, the eminent engineer of Mill Wall, Poplar. The expedition with which she has been constructed is the greatest feat in ship building that has hitherto been accomplished; she having been laid and entirely finished in the short space of two months and seven days. The vessel is built on the wave-line principle of Mr. Scott Russell, and on Saturday week was tried in the river, in the "Long Reach," and attained, at the measured distance, a speed of nearly fifteen knots an hour, the wheels making sixty revolutions per minute, and beating with ease many of the fastest boats on the river. Her principal dimensions are as follows:—

Length between perpendiculars ..	123 feet
Breadth of beam ..	14 feet
Depth of hold ..	7 feet 6 inches
Draught ..	3 feet 9 inches
Power ..	40 horses
Diameter of cylinders ..	2 inches
Stroke ..	2 feet 6 inches

Report gives the command-in-chief of the Pacific to Rear-Admiral the Honourable Sir Fleetwood Pellew, C.B. But this, like all previous statements on the matter, is mere report. It is a fact, however, that Rear-Admiral Prescott, C.B., superintendent of Portsmouth Dockyard, is a candidate for this command. The gallant admiral was commodore on that station for some time; and we believe that Sir Fleetwood Pellew, Rear-Admiral Moresby, C.B., and Rear-Admiral Peter John Douglas, are amongst the candidates for this lucrative appointment.

The President of Peru has issued a decree appointing the Minister of the Home Department (Don Lucas Fonseca), Don Nicolas Pierola, and Don Nicolas Rodrigo, a commission to select and take charge of articles intended to be sent to England for exhibition next year.



CHRIST CHURCH, PITSMOOR, SHEFFIELD.

the earlier examples of steam machinery as applied to naval purposes. The launch took place at half-past three o'clock, when Mrs. Hopkinson, the



THE NEW STEAMER, "CITY OF PARIS."

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS SUPPLEMENT.

No. 442.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.

[NUMBER AND TWO SUPPLEMENTS, 1s.]

THE LONDON SEASON OF 1850.

THE GRAND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

THE year Eighteen hundred and Fifty will ever be memorable in the annals of civilization, as having given birth to the great idea of an industrial congress of all the nations of the world. To his Royal Highness Prince Albert is due the truly princely merit of having taken up this noble idea, and of having worked it out, not merely by lending to it the countenance of Royalty, but also by his having devoted to it a considerable amount of personal attention. During the Season, the public attention, from the highest in the land down to the ranks of the humblest artisan, has in this country been excited, and still more signally abroad, upon the practical working of this great scheme. Meetings were held throughout the country. Every day brought its addition to the sum of warm approval and tangible support. The subscriptions entered into, if not sufficient to guarantee all the expenses, were far more than enough as an earnest of the public enthusiasm, and of a steady and effectual future support. All that could be done, by the spontaneous accord of a nation encouraged by the sympathy and admiration of foreign governments and communities, was done effectively. The practical arrangements were necessarily left to committees, composed of comparatively few persons. Perhaps, if there had been still fewer, the work might have been done more quickly, and with less seeming hesitation. Still, it was remarkable that all the ramifications of a great plan, to be circulated to all parts of the world, as regulations for intending contributors should have been defined and agreed upon with so much precision and so little delay. The great question of the choice of a site gave rise, we need scarcely say, to much bitter controversy. Indeed, at the time, there were those who suspected that the difficulty about the site was exaggerated, as a pretext for a future postponement, if not abandonment, of the plan. Those who calculated on such a result little understood the British character. Without entering into the merits of that controversy, we may observe that its importance became dwarfed as the real motives of the malcontents became apparent. Ultimately the Government determined on adhering to the original site in Hyde-park. In the meanwhile the building committee had advertised for plans of an appropriate structure. Artists in various countries immediately set to work; and, misled by the announcement of the committee that they contemplated a brick or stone building of a permanent character, an immense amount of ingenuity, invention, and hard labour was utterly thrown away. When the designs were publicly exhibited, it was known that the designers had worked on an erroneous basis; and although many of them combined magnificence and beauty with usefulness, and although the architects who had designed them received fair

proportions of praise, all were set aside in favour of Mr. Paxton's elegant structure of iron and glass, of which we gave an illustration a short time since. The choice of a building, the acceptance of a contract, and the actual commencement of the work, is one great fact in connexion with this undertaking, that will give additional confidence to the multitudes, in different parts of the world, who are organising their industrial armies for this great peaceful strife. Another fact, not so great, but quite as interesting to the intending exhibitors, was the choice of the prize medals. Of these, we gave illustrations of the three principal; we now subjoin the three £50 prize medals. Mr. Hancock's design represents Britannia between Wisdom and Justice, holding a wreath over Painting, Sculpture, and Science. M. Wiener's embodies the great idea of the Exposition, in so far as Britannia is seen receiving the produce of various nations. M. Gayrard's (to our taste, by far the most poetical, as it is the simplest, of the three) consists of a single figure of Britannia holding, with half-supplicating gesture, the olive and the palm in her right hand, while

her left rests on a shield illustrated with the combat of St. George and the Dragon.

The forthcoming Exposition has certainly been the all-engrossing topic of "the Season." But its practical interest was prospective, and did not deter the public from seizing on those other enjoyments which were spread before them with a profusion that attests the growing passion of the English for art. We begin our retrospective review with

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

The season opened on the 12th of March, with Mayer's "Medea," for the purpose of introducing Mdle. Parodi in the character of which Madame Pasta, her patron, near relative, and instructress, had been so famous a representative. Parodi, by her impassioned yet classical embodiment of this very difficult part, proved that she possesses a high tragic genius, which only requires time to develop into artistic excellence and perfection. On the same evening, a new ballet—one of those poetical choregraphic creations which are due to the inventive talents of M. Paul Taglioni—entitled "Les Metamorphoses," was produced.

The object of the designer was to exhibit Carlotta Grisi, the peerless and poetical queen of the dance, in a variety of different characters. He succeeded to perfection; and the extraordinary versatility of the artist as a pantomimist, and her unrivalled grace and spirituality as a dancer, aided by some splendid scenery and very beautiful, picturesque, and harmonious groupings and dances, secured for the new ballet a success which endured until the final close of the season. After the first night, Marie Taglioni added her attraction to the ballet.

After a revival of "Nino," in which Parodi exhibited her tragic powers, and a Signor Lorenzo proved himself a striking actor, and, for an amateur, a good singer, Verdi's "Ernani" was produced, to introduce Mr. Sims Reeves in the tenor part, and Parodi as the heroine. The accomplished English tenor received a welcome which effectually contradicted all the rumours that there had been a cabal to crush him, and that no English artist has any chance of success on an Italian theatre.

On the 23rd of March an agreeable surprise awaited the audience; a new dancer, of the first order as an executive artist, emerged from the horizon, and at once took her place as a "star." Mdle. Amalia Ferraris had been a favourite in Italy and at Vienna, but here she was a stranger. In an occasional *pas* she developed such extraordinary *aplomb* and precision of movement as raised her at once to the first rank, although it is still uncertain, whether as a pantomimist and as an artist in the sense of the term as applied to so peerless a creature as Carlotta, she will assert an equal superiority. At present it would seem that this young lady's merit consists more in a supreme excellence in the more mechanical part of the choregraphic art.

The 2nd of April was signalized by the *début* of Catherine Hayes as *Lucia*, to the *Edgar* of Reeves. Miss Hayes gave a highly intelligent and touching impersonation, and her advance in vocal power as well as finish astonished even her admirers. Reeves was already known as an impassioned and tender *Edgar*.

For the *rentrée* of Madame Sontag, on the 4th of April, "Don Pasquale" was selected; the accomplished and fascinating vocalist achieving a renewed triumph in the part of *Norina*, while Lablache was welcomed as a friend on his *rentrée* as the old *Don*. After revivals of the "Barbiere" and "Giovanni," which exhibited triumphantly the vocal force of the company, Verdi's "I Lombardi" was produced, for the



NO. 68.—M. GAYRARD.



NO. 98.—M. WIENER.



NO. 104, (3).—MR. HANCOCK.

purpose of introducing Baucardé, the new tenor, who came to us unheralded by puff or praises. In ten minutes from his entrance on the stage the richness, sweetness, power, tenderness, and compass of his voice, and the purity of his style as a vocalist, were recognised, and his reception was most brilliant. In other parts, in which he subsequently appeared, Signor Baucardé advanced in favour; but, as the season advanced, it became evident that he was falling into an indolence and apathy that must be fatal to his reputation. His performance was so unequal, that the *habitués* always went to the theatre in fear, lest their anticipated enjoyment should be spoiled by a *fiasco*. This was the more provoking, because, in some selections given from "Guglielmo Tell," Baucardé sang in a style to lead to the very highest expectations.

Madame Sontag appeared from time to time, and always with increasing *éclat*, in the "Nozze di Figaro," the "Son-nambula," "Linda di Chamouni," and "I Puritani." In the "Linda," the part of *Pierotto* was sustained by Mlle. Ida Bertrand, a mezzo-soprano singer with some good contralto notes, who developed great cultivation and finish as a singer, with much originality and ability as an actress. She promised to prove an acquisition; and this expectation was justified by her *Orsini* in "Lucrezia Borgia," which produced a powerful effect. In the drinking song she obtained a double encore. This opera introduced Madame Frezzolini, after an absence of some years. Her impersonation of *Lucrezia* was original and highly artistic. She at once took her position here in the first rank, as she had long done elsewhere. Her next character, *Adina* in the "Elisir d'Amore," attested her versatility, and exhibited as much comic, as her *Lucrezia* had shown tragic, power. In the part of *Lucia*, assumed suddenly on the illness of Miss Hayes, she made quite a "hit."

We now come to the great and distinguishing event of the season—the production of "La Tempesta." To have broken down the bad custom, by bringing out a new opera first in England, was a great merit in Mr. Lumley. As he had been disappointed in his expectation of obtaining the music for this opera from Mendelssohn, he turned to Halévy, and the town witnessed, early in June, the spectacle of the most fertile and popular composer, alike in serious and comic opera, and the most distinguished dramatist of the age employed together on the production of an opera for an English audience, and founded on one of the masterpieces of the great English dramatist and poet. No expense had been spared by Mr. Lumley. The opera was "got up" in a style of extraordinary magnificence. The cast included Sontag, Lablache, Coletti, Baucardé, Carlotta Grisi, Parodi, Ida Bertrand, and Giuliani. The success of this opera, on the first night, was triumphant. We need not here analyse either the plot or the music, because both are too fresh in the reader's mind to require it. Enough to record alone—and, by so recording it, to do it honour—the *Caliban* of Lablache, as one of the most, if not the most, perfect characters in the whole range of the lyrical drama. The success of this work carried on the theatre to the close of the season. But Mr. Lumley yet achieved one more success, in the original and piquant performance of Madame Sontag in the "Figlia del Reggimento," which (we can say it without exaggeration) rivalled that of Jenny Lind. Before the season finally closed, however, the indefatigable lessee engaged Madame Fiorentini, the celebrated singer, for two representations.

We should not omit to mention, that a ballet-divertissement, entitled "Les Grâces," introduced Carlotta Grisi, Ferraris, and Marie Taglioni in one dance, rivaling in brilliancy the far-famed "Pas de Quatre."

One event which will render the past season ever memorable in operatic annals, was the re-appearance, for one night only, of the venerable Madame Pasta, who, at the risk of provoking short-sighted censure from superficial critics, determined to give to the musical public of the present day such idea as her decay of powers would allow, of an unapproachable grandeur of style in lyric tragedy, and a method of vocalisation of which now, unhappily—except, perhaps, in Viardot—we have no example. Madame Pasta was greeted with affectionate and respectful enthusiasm.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

A strong feature in the programme was the promised repetition of Meyerbeer's "Prophète," of which the performances, at the close of the previous season, might be counted as rehearsals. The vocal strength engaged was enormous, not merely in the array of great names, but also in the high artistic merits of the singers. Among the *soprani* announced were Grisi, Viardot, Castellan, and Vera; *contralti*, De Meric and D'Oskolski; tenors, Mario, Maralti (a new-comer), and Tamberlik (also a new-comer); baritones, Tamburini, Ronconi, Massol; basses, Formes, Zelger, Tagliafico. The orchestra remained substantially as before; the musical arrangements were to be under the direction of Signor Costa, and the general management was confided to Mr. F. Gye.

The opening of the season, on Saturday, the 16th March, was rendered auspicious by the presence of her Majesty, with Prince Albert, the Prince of Wales, and the Princess Royal. Weber's "Der Freyschütz," with Italian recitative, ascribed to Berlioz, but really written by Costa, was the opening opera. Familiar as the public were with the music, in one shape or other, this may be said to have been the first perfect performance of the opera in London, and the utmost interest was felt. The result was a decided success. The fine romantic music was rendered by the orchestra with a delicacy, purity, and elastic spirit such as it had perhaps never received before. The vocal cast was very good. First and foremost in every respect was the *Caspar* of Formes, the German bass, who, at some performances of a German *troupe* in London, had proved himself a fine impressive actor, with both comic and tragic powers of a high order, and a singer with a voice unrivalled for massiveness and depth, if wanting some of the rich mellowness of his great predecessor, Staudigl. Formes took his position at once; and, in spite of some intrigues and much adverse hyper-criticism, he retained it triumphantly to the close of the season, in every variety of part he was called on to play. Madame Castellan made her first appearance in this opera in the character of the heroine, singing the music with much force and execution, but occasionally forgetting the simplicity of the German style in sundry Italianized cadences and variations. The new tenor, Maralti, made a most favourable *début* in the tenor part. The opera was, as a whole, well got up; but there was a little too much of the more vulgar and commonplace stage effect in the Incantation scene. Her Majesty marked her interest and approval by visiting the theatre two nights in succession to witness this *chef d'œuvre*.

After Easter, Auber's "Masaniello," which, on account of its magnificent embodiment in every feature that marks the speciality of the Grand Opera, had proved one of the most successful hits of the previous season, was revived, with a sufficient alteration in the cast to impart to it novelty. The great feature of the revival was the highly successful *début* of the new tenor, Signor Tamberlik, who proved himself an artist of the first order, both as a singer and as an actor. His voice is of that sympathetic and elastic character which attains great power without detriment to sweetness and purity of tone. It was at first supposed that an inveterate habit of falling into the *tremolo* would permanently detract from the great qualities of this singer. A few performances served to abate, if not entirely to remove, this anticipation. Madame Castellan replaced Dorus Gras as *Eleira*, and Madame Cotti, from the St. James's, took the part of Madame Bellini. An old favourite, Miss Ballin, in place of the famous Pauline Leroux, showed much pathos and grace in her pantomime as *Fenella*.

The *rentrée* of Grisi and Mario took place on the 9th of April, in "Lucrezia Borgia." They received a tremendous ovation. Madame D'Oskolski failed in the part of *Orsini*. On the following Thursday her Majesty and Prince Albert witnessed "Norma," in which Tamberlik raised the part of *Pollio* once more to the first rank. The *Oroveso* of Formes was also a hit. Like most of this artist's assumptions, it was at once a new and a strikingly true conception, investing the character with a more defined poetry than it had yet received.

Mlle. de Meric, a young lady who had been engaged as the principal contralto, made her first appearance for the season on Saturday, the 13th of April. This artist has an organ soft, sweet, and sympathetic, rather than powerful. Her performances are rather a promise of future excellence than in themselves sufficient to replace those of

Alboni, or even of Angri. Still, she made great way during the season.

The *Leporello* of Formes, a conception true to the Spanish character of Mozart's "Don Giovanni," completed most satisfactorily the great cast of that opera on this stage, comprising Grisi, Mario, Castellan, and Tamburini, as well as Mlle. Vera, Tagliafico, and Polonini. This proved one of the most attractive performances of the season.

Rossini's "Mosé in Egitto" had never been performed in its original form in this country. In 1822, a dramatic version, under the title of "Pietro l'Eremita," had been played at Her Majesty's Theatre, and one or two attempts made to introduce the music at oratorios. The religious feeling of the public, or, at all events, of the authorities, stood in the way of a full dramatic performance; and the conductors of the Royal Italian Opera, in their desire to afford this desideratum, were compelled to have recourse to the subterfuge of changing the scene of the opera, changing the names of the characters, turning the Israelites into Baetrians, and thus avoiding the direct religious application of the incidents. The new name given to the piece was "Zora." The cast included Tamburini, Tamberlik, Zelger, Tagliafico, Castellan, and Vera. The revival presented a double attraction, in the magnificent dramatic music and in the splendid mounting. The *finale* to the third act was next in interest, if not equal, to the great acts of Meyerbeer's most popular operas. The *encores*, throughout, were frequent, including the quatuor and chorus "Nume possente," the duo "Parlar spiegar," and the rondo "Mi manca la voce," and the *finale* of the third act, already mentioned. In thus producing, even by the aid of a pious fraud, Rossini's *chef d'œuvre* with such unprecedented excellence, the conductors of this theatre have added to the great services already rendered to the cause of lyrical tragedy.

The revival of the "Huguenots," with Grisi in place of Viardot as *Valentine*, and De Meric in the contralto part, aided materially in the pecuniary prosperity of the season; as did also the reproduction of "Roberto il Diavolo" (with Tamberlik as *Roberto*, and Formes as *Bertram*), and, finally, the revival of the "Prophète."

Ronconi's new and original version of the *Podesta* in the "Gazza Lutra" gave an additional interest to the revival of that opera, which took place on the 18th June, Grisi sustaining the part of *Ninetta*, in which, seventeen years before, she made her *début* in England. Mlle. De Meric made a very interesting *Pippo*.

After the revival of the "Semiramide," what had been calculated upon as the event of the season, the production of "La Juive," took place. We have so very recently given an elaborate description of this performance, that we need not now repeat our remarks. The object of the management appeared to be, to produce a spectacle of unrivalled magnificence. In this they succeeded beyond all question. The experiment was interesting, inasmuch as it afforded a test of the state of musical taste in this country. The opera does not appear to have "drawn" in proportion to the effort made, by which we infer that the London musical public are already too far advanced for such tactics.

THE FRENCH OPERA COMIQUE.

Mr. Mitchell, the enterprising manager of the St. James's Theatre, renewed, at the commencement of the past season, his effort to naturalise in this country the French comic opera. Such an undertaking implied much hazard, and it could only succeed under a management of judgment, spirit, and liberality. Mr. Mitchell's arrangements were, on the whole, characterised by all these requisites. The season commenced on Monday, the 7th of January, auspiciously, with Halévy's "Val d'Andorre," its first production in this country. The opera had a run of one hundred nights when produced in Paris. Of course, we could not expect here all the completeness, in every detail, of the French Opéra Comique; but the piece was produced in a very satisfactory manner. Without entering into the details of the plot, it is sufficient to remind our readers of its resemblance to that of "La Gazza Lutra," and our own "Maid and the Magpie." Mlle. Charton—a very pretty woman, a fascinating actress, and a singer of more than ordinary accomplishment—had, during the previous season, established herself as a prime favourite with the audience attending the French Opera. Her invaluable services were retained by Mr. Mitchell, and she made her *entrée* as *Rose de Mai* in the new opera. It was part of Mr. Mitchell's plan to bring over, from time to time, such distinguished singers as could be spared from the French Opera. Chollet, who for so many years had held the first place in Paris, now made his bow before an English audience. No longer in point of *physique* so charming a singer as he once had been, time could not touch his merit as an artist; and his execution of the music (especially the *chanson militaire* in the third act) was a triumph of vocal skill over failing powers. His acting, too, was in the highest style of finished comedy. Mlle. Guichard, an established favourite here, resumed her position. Mlle. Cotti, a new-comer, exhibited vocal ability which led to her subsequent engagement at the Royal Italian Opera. Other new-comers—Messrs. Nathan, Lack, and Leroy—were only moderately successful. The chorus, it was noticed, was not so good as it might easily have been made; but, on the other hand, the orchestra, under the experienced direction of Hanssens, was fully adequate to rendering the music.

The "Val d'Andorre" was speedily followed by the production of Hérolf's "Zampa," in which Chollet played his original character. Mlle. Charton was the heroine; and two excellent comedians, Chateaufort and Soyier, helped, by their drollery, to the success of the opera.

The next novelty was the "Caid," of Ambrose Thomas, a clever musical satire, or caricature. It belongs to a class of compositions of which we have no example in the operatic form. The plot is skillfully put together, to afford scope for situations which burlesque those in serious and comic opera; and the music is a kind of satirical caricature on Gretry, Auber, Halévy, of the French school, and Cimarosa, Rossini, and Verdi, of the Italian. The refined audience of this theatre soon perceived the true character of the entertainment, and relished it accordingly. The opera became one of the most popular of the series.

The next novelty was Adolphe Adam's comic opera, "Le Roi d'Yvetot," of which the plot is founded on Beranger's capital song. Chollet's raucy humour, in the old mock King of Yvetot, of which he was the original representative, was well supported by the other characters; and the light, sparkling music of Adam helped to make this pleasant little piece an attraction, as long as the arrangements of the programme allowed of its being performed.

Adolphe Adam's "Postillon de Longjumeau" was one of the most successful productions of the series.

The one-act operetta, "L'Esclave de Camoens," said to be composed by Vonderdoes, but believed to be the work of the King of Holland, was produced with success, Mlle. Charton adding to her triumphs by her touching and delicate impersonation of the slave. On the same evening Auber's comic opera "Le Maçon" was produced, for the first time. It contains some of this charming composer's light music, and, although a slight affair, it served most agreeably to diversify the series. The season terminated at the close of the same week, with the "Crown Diamonds." Mr. Mitchell deserved and obtained much praise for the spirit and enterprise he displayed in his arrangements. It is at all times difficult to collect together in London Parisian artists of a superior order, who are necessarily engaged at the Paris theatres, or elsewhere. In his engagements Mr. Mitchell was sufficiently fortunate, although, with the exception of Chollet, he was unfortunate with his tenors. The most deficient part of his arrangements was the chorus. Here there could be no excuse for inferiority, because there are so many competent singers employed by the different choral societies. As a whole, however, Mr. Mitchell deserves credit. We are not able to say whether the speculation was successful in a pecuniary point of view. After Easter, the theatre reopened for dramatic performances, and continued open until August. A notice of these performances will be found under the head of "The Drama."

PRINCESS.

Scarcely had Halévy's "Val d'Andorre" been produced at the St. James's, when the lessee of this theatre brought out an English adaptation. The piece was fortunately adapted to the company, and the result was successful. Miss Louisa Pyne, a young vocalist, who had recently made a most successful *début*, undertook the part played at the other theatre by Mlle. Charton, to which she was quite equal. The other characters were filled by Messrs. Harrison, Allen, Weiss, G.

Barker, Mlle. Nau, and Mrs. Weiss. The opera was well received, and the instrumental execution reflected credit on the band, under Mr. E. J. Loder.

A version of Auber's "Gustavus the Third," brought out at this theatre early in April, attested the ambition of the manager, and exposed the poverty of his resources. The performance had the merit of giving the music as nearly as possible in its complete shape; but the instrumental and choral strength of the theatre were wholly inadequate to even a decent rendering. The scenery was sufficiently splendid. In the ball scene, an innovation, which ought not to be made a precedent, allowed visitors who paid certain prices to enter on the stage.

Signor Schira, about the merits of whose opera, "Mina," there had been considerable controversy, offered a new specimen of his talent at this theatre, at the end of April, in the shape of an opera founded upon the popular old drama "Thérèse; or, the Orphan of Geneva." A tolerably good libretto, somewhat overlaid with incidents, assisted the appreciation of the music, which was essentially dramatic, and more interfused with melody than is usual with modern composers. If not original, the music was essentially pleasing, and it had the merit of being without pretension. Enough ability was shown by the composer, to prove, that, with a more efficient operatic force, he is capable of affording the public much entertainment. Mr. Allen sustained the tenor part; and Miss Louisa Pyne that of the heroine. These two vocalists, the only members of Mr. Maddox's operatic company, if we except Mr. Weiss, having the slightest pretensions as artists, contributed mainly to the success of the opera.

CONCERTS.

THE PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS.

The concerts given by the Philharmonic Society excite much interest among musical amateurs, but afford little scope for a review or summary of the kind we are presenting to our readers. It is in the performance of great orchestral works that this society is pre-eminent; and there can be no doubt that, since Mr. Costa has had the direction of the band, it has arrived at an unprecedented excellence. During the past season the programme included almost all the great symphonies and overtures, which were executed to admiration. The vocal part of the concert was not, as usual, so successful; but some few engagements were satisfactory. The instrumental solos, also, were not always confided to artists of the first water. Still, as a whole, the society maintained its reputation as an exclusive body for the performance of first-class instrumental music at the highest possible prices. From time to time detailed notices of the concerts have been given in this Journal.

GRAND CONCERTS AT HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

One of the marked features of the season was the giving of a series of grand classical musical entertainments in the *salle* of Her Majesty's Theatre, supported by the whole vocal and instrumental resources of the theatre, with additional aid, from time to time, from without—as, for instance, in the persons of Thalberg, Ernst, Mlle. Charton, and others. We cannot go into any analysis of these concerts. It is enough to say that the musical lore and active good taste of Mr. Balfe were pre-eminently shown in the selections made, which combined a vast number of works not too familiar, and which were calculated to conduce to the instruction of the public by producing examples of composition not often heard. In the performance of the great orchestral works, symphonies, overtures, &c., the band gave promise of a high excellence should they be hereafter sufficiently drilled and exercised. As we have already said, the whole vocal and instrumental resources of the theatre were engaged in this series of concerts, which proved remarkably successful, and went far to uphold the *prestige* of the theatre.

The annual concert of Benedict, the composer and pianist, was this year given in the *salle* of Her Majesty's Theatre, and we therefore include it in the series of the morning concerts. Benedict's personal merits and popularity always secure him a large audience at his concerts; on this occasion, in order to fill the larger area, he added a monster programme, including the whole vocal and instrumental force of the theatre, with the additional aid of Charton, Halle, Ernst, Molique, Vivier, and Messrs. Osborne, Lindsay Sloper, and Ap Thomas (a young harpist). The selection was made in the best taste. The theatre was crowded; the space usually occupied by the band being turned into stalls, and the band placed on the stage and the concert went off with immense *éclat*.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA CONCERTS.

THE FIRST MORNING CONCERT for the season took place on the 10th of May. The "Stabat Mater" of Rossini was the *pièce de résistance*, rendered by Grisi, Castellan, De Meric, Vera, Mario, Formes, Tamberlik, Tamburini, and Tagliafico. A miscellaneous selection in the second part included a number of favourite pieces, executed by the principal artists.

THE SECOND MORNING CONCERT, on the 24th of May, was strongly objected to on the score of want of novelty; the answer being, that such entertainments are got up for the general public rather than for educated amateurs. One feature in these concerts was the introduction of Madrigals, with exquisite finish of light and shade by the chorus. This second concert, like the first, combined the whole vocal and instrumental strength of the establishment, with the addition of a violin solo, played in first-rate style by Sauton.

THE ANNUAL MORNING CONCERT of Mrs. Anderson having been given in the *salle* of the Royal Italian Opera, with the aid of the vocal and instrumental forces of the establishment, we are justified in including it as one of the series of morning concerts at that establishment. The great feature of this concert was the production, for the first time publicly in this country, of Mendelssohn's music to the "Edipus Coloneus" of Sophocles. This was one of the works written by Mendelssohn at the desire of the King of Prussia. It had been performed before her Majesty at Buckingham Palace, and it was by the permission of the Sovereign that Mrs. Anderson was able now to offer it to the public. We gave a description of this music on the occasion of its performance. Its chief merit as a work of art lay in the severe power with which Mendelssohn had subdued his imagination to the classical form most fit to represent the passion of the tragedy. Mrs. Anderson deserved the thanks of the musical world, for embodying so interesting a novelty in the programme of a benefit concert. The effect of the performance was not so perfect as the merits of the music deserved. Divorced from the dramatic embodiment of the tragedy, for which the metrical story-telling recited by Mr. Bartley is but a feeble substitute, the music necessarily loses much of the force and colour derived from association and sympathy. It was also unfortunate, that, in consequence of a want of sufficient rehearsal, the chorus of the theatre, usually such a model of precision and intonation, failed to do full justice to the fine choral effects inspired by the genius of Mendelssohn. The instrumental music, however, was perfect. In the miscellaneous portion of the concert, Mrs. Anderson herself performed, and there was a fine selection of vocal and instrumental music, rendered by the chief artists of the establishment.

THE MUSICAL UNION.]

This society, under the direction of its founder, Mr. Ella, a practical musician of long experience in our best orchestras, and one conscientiously devoted to his art, is now one of the most valuable musical institutions in the metropolis. By the death of the Duke of Cambridge, the society has lost a discerning patron, and the loss is a hard friend. His Royal Highness attended constantly at their *matinees*, where his love of art, his enthusiasm, and acknowledged good taste contributed, not a little, to stimulate the artists. The past season of the Musical Union has, we believe, proved the most prosperous of any since its first establishment. The congregation of first-rate musical talent in this country favoured Mr. Ella in his desire to bring together "in union" the greatest artists, without regard to country, and still less to those national or personal jealousies which are too often the bane and the disgrace of art in this country. The programmes for the past season have attested the musical taste of Mr. Ella, affording, as they have done, an oppor-

timidity to the musical amateur of hearing some of the finest compositions in chamber music executed by the most accomplished and distinguished artists. One of the features of the season was the production of Mendelssohn's posthumous Quartet, a composition of will and teaching beauty, in which the genius of the composer, stimulated by deep sorrow and retrospective emotion, poured out the treasures of his art and feeling. The instrumental character of these meetings may be inferred from the list of performers engaged. It is headed by Ernst, the prince of violinists; after him come Sainton, Alard, Delfore, G. de la, and Watson. On the viola we had Hill, Mollen, and Delfore; on the violoncello, Piatti (also a prince), Pibet, Hocking; on the contrabasso, Howell; clarinet, Lazarus; bassoon, Bennett; horn, Jarratt; and piano, Miss Loder. Still later, in the list (of which more must be heard); and last, though by no means least in this list of distinguished exponents, Heller and Halle. The next year will collect in London amateurs from all parts of the world; and it may safely be predicted, that no musical performance in this metropolis will prove more interesting or more satisfactory than that afforded by the Musical Union.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

Although not signalled by the introduction of much novelty, the past season of this society witnessed the revival of several works, which, either from the length of time that had elapsed since their previous performance, or the different circumstances under which they were now presented, had acquired all the freshness of new productions. The season commenced in November, with the revival of Handel's "Solomon." This was followed by the customary Christmas performance of the "Messiah." The new year opened with Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," which introduced Miss Catherine Hayes and Herr Fornes to the concerts of the Society. The first and second performances were attended by Mendelssohn's brother, who expressed himself highly gratified at the manner in which the work was performed. Handel's "Saul"—a work long neglected by the Society—was the next revival, and turned out to be one of the most dramatic and effective in the Society's repertoire. It was performed from Handel's score, without extra accompaniment. Haydn's "Creation" was the next performance; and this was followed by a concert combining three works of modern composers, viz. Haydn's Third or Imperial Mass, Mendelssohn's "Lauda Sion," and Spohr's "Last Judgment." This concert proved one of the most interesting of the season. Following upon these performances came the "Messiah" and "Israel in Egypt." The season was an unusually successful one.

LONDON SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

This offshoot of the Sacred Harmonic Society, under the superintendence of Mr. Surman, has given a series of grand choral and instrumental performances during the season. The oratorios selected have been generally the same as those of the rival undertaking, and the same singers and members of the same chorus were often employed at either society. The question of superiority lay in the relative merits of the ensemble.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.

We have elsewhere mentioned the concerts given by Mr. Willy, the Society of British Musicians, and others at St. Martin's Hall. The past season, however, saw also the inauguration of the building for the general purposes to which it is destined. The grand hall professes to rival Exeter Hall as a place for the giving of concerts on a grand scale, the holding of meetings, &c.; and, under the management of Mr. Hullah, to whom the erection of the building is due, several grand performances of sacred and general choral music were given during the season; one of which was signalled by the production of Mr. Leslie's "Festival Anthem," a composition of singular merit, from which much future excellence is predicted for the young composer.

LONDON WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.

One of the most popular, if not the most excellent, among the musical performances of the season, was the series known as the London Wednesday Concerts. Accepted with favour by the press and the public when first started, these concerts soon disappointed a reasonable expectation, that they might be made subservient to the musical cultivation, as well as the amusement, of the pleasure-seeking public. The programmes, however, were too often arranged on the mere ad captandū principle; and the conductors appeared to be satisfied if they could draw a crowded audience by attractions of a temporary kind, forgetting that, for permanent success, a musical character was essential. The consequence of this system of management was, that the prestige of the undertaking gradually died away; and, although most spirited efforts were made—for instance, by the engagement of Ernst, Thalberg, and other celebrities—these concerts suddenly came to an end before the time to which, in the ordinary course and under a more discriminating management, they might have been protracted.

SERIAL CONCERTS.

Mr. WILLY'S CLASSICAL CHAMBER CONCERTS.—One of the most interesting events of the musical season, was the attempt of Mr. Willy to popularise Classical Chamber Music. The experiment was hazardous; because, although audiences of the wealthier classes regularly attended Classical Chamber Concerts when given on the "select" principle, and at high prices, it was doubtful whether this refined kind of music would attract a more general audience. The result proved that the musical taste of the multitude had been much undervalued; for Mr. Willy's undertaking proved a decided success. Mr. Willy's concerts were given in St. Martin's Hall, Long-acre. He commenced with a series of six, given on the Monday evenings. The programmes combined selections from the best chamber music of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and other composers. The executants were Mr. Willy himself, Piatti (the great violoncello player), Messrs. Hill, Zerbin, Weslake, Mori, Bradley, Webb, Waul, Day, Reed, Gardner, Calken, Pratten, Mount, and Giles. Mr. Sterndale Bennett lent his powerful aid at the pianoforte, and the result was a series of performances of chamber music which would have shed lustre on any concert-room. The prices were such as to afford facility to every class of musical amateurs. We should not omit to mention that these concerts were varied by vocal music, executed by Miss Dolby, Miss Ellen Lyon, Mr. W. H. Seguin, &c. Mr. Land presided at the piano during this undertaking, on a comparatively small scale. Mr. Willy to attempt a series of serial concerts, and to give a series of entertainments to those given at the Philharmonic Society's concerts. He engaged an orchestra and several vocalists. There were Mrs. Sims Reeves, Miss Dolby, and Miss Lucombe. This undertaking was not so successful. In the former one Mr. Willy had his means under his control; but, in order to fill a larger area by the attraction of more ambitious performances, it was necessary that the music, more especially the instrumental, should be of the first order of excellence. This was not the case with the symphonies and other orchestral works attempted by Mr. Willy; and the undertaking fell to the ground without having decided the question whether the general public are ready for a Philharmonic Society giving first-class entertainments at low prices.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH MUSICIANS.—The desire to popularise good chamber music led the Society of British Musicians into the field with a series of six Chamber Concerts, given in St. Martin's Hall on the 26th January and the succeeding Saturdays. The plan comprised the performance of quartets, quintets, and other instrumental pieces fit for the concert-room. The principal executants were the Blagroves, Mr. W. L. Phillips, Messrs. Severn, Watson, W. Dorrell, Churton, Nicholson, Lazarus, Larkin, and C. Harper, and Miss Kate Loder. There were vocal selections, sustained, from time to time, by Mr. Locky, Miss Thornton, and other singers. Mr. C. E. Horsley was the director, and Mr. C. Cooke the pianoforte accompanist. These concerts proved sufficiently successful.

CLASSICAL PIANOFORTE MUSIC.—Among the features of novelty in the past musical season, may be mentioned, as being of some value and importance, an undertaking by M. Alexandre Billet, a pianoforte player of eminence, from Russia. Pianoforte music is, of course, included more or less in all concerts of any pretension to the term

"classical;" and of late years the executive skill of performers of eminence, Liszt, Thalberg, Dreychock, and others, has attracted crowds. But the musical public had not been afforded the means, in any collective form, of judging of the merits of the different composers for this popular instrument. M. Billet saw that there was an opening for such an entertainment, more especially in London, where a degree of skill on the pianoforte is attained by the female members of almost every family of respectability; and he projected a series of concerts, to consist of selections from the works of all the great composers for the pianoforte. These, arranged in the order of time, constituted a sort of history of that class of composition, illustrated by examples. M. Billet, as a player of the classical school, was quite at home in most of the selections. He avoided the romantic and more extravagant class of fantasia, which can only receive justice from players of an extraordinary description of talent. He was assisted from time to time by W. Blagrove, Rousselot, Delfore, and other instrumentalists. The original announcement projected a series of three concerts; but they obtained so striking a success, that they were afterwards extended.

Mr. LUCAS'S MUSICAL EVENINGS.—Mr. Lucas, the violoncello player, gave his usual series of musical evenings for classical chamber music. He was assisted by Sainton, Blagrove, Hill, and Dorrell.

HERR MOLIQUE, the violinist and composer, gave, during the season, a series of concerts, at the Hanover-square Rooms, commencing early in March. The programmes comprised instrumental chamber music, inclusive of Molique's own compositions, and vocal music. The executants were Sterndale Bennett, Piatti, Molique, Hausman, Mellon, and Carodus, as instrumentalists; and the Misses Williams, Dolby, Molique, and Schloss, as vocalists.

Mr. STERNDALE BENNETT'S PIANOFORTE CONCERTS commenced on the 19th February, and the series proved as successful as usual. Unlike the more comprehensive scheme of M. Billet, the plan of Mr. Sterndale Bennett is confined to selections of the most choice works of the eminently classical masters; and his essential classical style of playing, so pure, so delicate, yet firm in touch, and so faultless in its precision, peculiarly fits him to be the interpreter of such works. We need scarcely remind our readers that Mr. Sterndale Bennett is also a composer for the pianoforte, of rare merit—one whose works are already recognised as "standard" by musical amateurs, wherever music is cultivated as a science. In his opening concert, Mr. Bennett received the powerful aid of Ernst; and the junction of two men of such excellence afforded a rare enjoyment to the lovers of classical music. Mr. Bennett also played, with his pupil, Mr. Cousins, some of his own pianoforte pieces. The other concerts of the series were equally interesting and successful.

Mr. G. A. OSBORNE'S MATINEES.—This gentleman, able as a composer for the pianoforte, and an executant of admitted pretensions, gave a series of matinees during the season, at the Beethoven Rooms, in Harley-street. The programmes presented good selections of the best instrumental chamber music, to which were added some of Mr. Osborne's own most popular compositions. In the execution of these pieces, Mr. Osborne received the powerful aid of Ernst and Piatti. Vocal music relieved the programme. It was executed by competent artists, among whom Miss Catherine Hayes was prominent. A sister of Mr. Osborne, Mrs. Hampton, produced a favourable impression, especially in Lover's Irish songs.

Mr. HENRY WYLD, the pianist, gave a series of matinees musicales, at Willis's Rooms. Some of Mr. Wyld's own pleasing compositions were played by himself and Ernst.

THE MEETINGS OF THE BEETHOVEN QUARTETT SOCIETY for the present season were rendered unusually interesting from the fact of Ernst having, in order to revive the prestige of these entertainments, become the permanent leader in the quartetts. The other artists were Cooper, Hill, and Rousselot; and an additional interest was lent to the first concert by the participation of Stephen Heller, the composer and pianoforte-player, so highly esteemed in the musical world, and too little known to the public. Without following the Society through the series of performances, we may mention that the selections were invariably excellent, and that, during the whole musical season, there were no performances that gave more unqualified pleasure.

THE DRAMA.

DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

THE announcement that Mr. James Anderson, formerly a favourite actor in the romantic line of the legitimate drama, had taken Drury-Lane Theatre for three years, with a view to making one more effort at a revival of the legitimate drama, had attracted more than ordinary interest. Although Mr. Anderson had not engaged any first-rate tragic actor, he had given it out as his intention to encourage dramatic talent wherever it could be found. His list of performers included Mr. and Miss Vandenhoff, Mrs. Glover, Mrs. Nisbett, Miss Laura Addison, and Mr. Vining, among established London actors; together with several provincial artists hitherto unknown in London. Amongst these the most prominent was Mr. Basil Baker, who, for many years, had been the chief comedian of the Liverpool and Manchester theatres.

Considering the peculiar circumstances under which Mr. Anderson had entered on his undertaking, the public were prepared to give him credit for the best intentions, and not to be too critical as to the quality of the entertainments until he should have had the opportunity of making selections of artists as their engagements expired elsewhere. For this reason the opening performance of the "Merchant of Venice" was dealt with very tenderly. The Christmas pantomime, produced, according to custom, on Boxing Night, proved a decided hit. As it was known to have been got up in extreme haste, its excellence and completeness were the more remarkable. In obedience to the mocking spirit of the time, Mr. Rodwell, the writer of the pantomime, took the salient points of Queen Elizabeth's history for his theme, inclusive of the love of Leicester for Amy Robsart. The introductory part was a burlesque, full of broad and extravagant caricature, but all sustained with a redeeming humour. The vixenish vagaries of the maiden Queen with her various lovers, and her amorous preference for Leicester, were hit off with irresistible comicality, and a provoking truthfulness to the secret history and court gossip of the day. The audience, by the keen relish of their enjoyment, seemed conscious that there was amid all this fooling a little more than the mere desire to raise a broad laugh; in fact, it was the cleverness with which the historical points were hit off that made this pantomime so successful, and ensured for it a run that covered for a long time the utter failure of Mr. Anderson in his more "legitimate" undertaking. Mr. Anderson had engaged, in one batch, a set of pantomimists from Cremorne Gardens. Mr. Deulin, the principal of these, sustained the character of Leicester with a force of burlesque humour and pantomimic agility that recalled the clever performances of Mr. W. H. Payne. The harlequinade was of average merit. These portions of pantomime have for many years degenerated from the broad humour of the days of Grimaldi into mere posture-making and athletic display. Mr. Anderson's pantomime was no exception to the rule.

After a series of performances of standard dramatic works, in which the mediocrity of Mr. Anderson's general company was made painfully manifest—as well as his own unwise determination to sustain the principal parts—he made an effort at novelty on a grand scale, by getting up the "Piseco" of Schiller—a drama, on many accounts, strikingly ill adapted to attract an English audience. The original had been skilfully compressed and adapted by Mr. Planché; and all that magnificent scenery, costumes, and general mounting could contribute towards its success, was provided by Mr. Anderson. The cast of the play included the strength—such as it was—of the company. Mr. Anderson undertook the part of the hero, the Duke of Piseco, and was ably assisted by the principal actors. The play was a complete failure. The audience, however, was not so critical as to the quality of the performance, but the one with which the public were most concerned, was the pantomime, which had been the subject of a long and favourable report. The play was a failure, and the audience was not so critical as to the quality of the performance, but the one with which the public were most concerned, was the pantomime, which had been the subject of a long and favourable report. The play was a failure, and the audience was not so critical as to the quality of the performance, but the one with which the public were most concerned, was the pantomime, which had been the subject of a long and favourable report.

trionic resources. These proved utterly inadequate to attract audiences. At Easter, one of the old-fashioned spectacle pieces, got up with much care, failed to restore matters as regarded the treasury; and very shortly after, in spite of some spasmodic attempts to stimulate public patronage, the theatre closed. Mr. Anderson, in a farewell address, sought to attribute his failure to almost every cause but the real one. He complained of neglect on the part of the public, as though it were a moral duty in them to flock to one particular theatre, and be wearied by the performances of second and third-rate actors; he accused the press of lukewarmness, when the writers had commenced by giving him credit for the best intentions, and had continued their prospective favour long after it had become apparent to the public in general that it was misplaced. Mr. Anderson had forgotten the great strides made of late years by the public taste. He had engaged a company composed (with one or two exceptions) of actors and actresses who had passed away from the scene, or of provincials of inadequate talent. He persisted in playing himself the principal tragic, and some of the principal comedy parts; and the public, with every desire actively to patronize the drama, soon saw the necessity of awaiting some more felicitous embodiment of its great attraction than was presented by this unfortunate undertaking. The feeling in favour of such an enterprise remains as strong as ever; and if Mr. Anderson, who is understood to be the lessee of the theatre, should resolve to renew his attempt, it is to be hoped that he will profit by the experience he has so dearly purchased.

HAYMARKET.

One of the chief attractions of this theatre during the season was the performance of Mr. and Mrs. C. Kean. They made their first appearance on Monday the 10th of December, in the "Wife's Secret."

The first novelty in which they appeared was an original drama in three acts, by Mr. Mark Lemon. It was entitled "The Loving Woman," and was extremely well adapted for the display of Mrs. Kean's power of portraying the nobler sentiments of the female heart. The plot was somewhat far-fetched, but not untrue to nature. The scene was laid in Prague, where Ottilia (the "loving woman") had been reared as the ward of Wildfort, a miser. She is enamoured of Rosen (Mr. C. Kean), whom she is about to marry. Wildfort insists on her fortune being settled on herself. Rosen is deeply in debt, and Wildfort buys up all the claims, in order that he may, at the moment of the bridal ceremony, seize on all his possessions, and disgrace him before his bride. He brings with him a ragged beggar (Mr. Wal-lack), whom he installs as master. The effect upon the "loving woman" defeats the miser's calculations. Her love augments with her lover's suffering, and the use she makes of the settlement on herself is to offer all her means to her husband, with whom she retires into comparative poverty. Rosen, however, soon chafes under this position of dependence; he becomes morose, and finally jealous. It is agreed that they shall be divorced; but the marriage settlement is no sooner cancelled than the "loving woman" again offers herself to her husband. This devotion conquers him, and the piece terminates with the discovery that the beggar is, in fact, the father of Rosen, who had been persecuted to utter destitution by the artifices of Wildfort. The exaggerated sentiment and improbable incidents of this piece would have rendered it a failure, but for the beautiful acting of Mrs. Kean as the "loving woman," and Mr. Wallack's grand Salvador-like impersonation of the part of the beggar.

On the following evening, the Keans appeared in the Hon. Edmund Phelps's adaptation of Henrick Herz's dramatic poem, "King René's Daughter." A short time before, another version of the same piece, made by "Bon Gaultier," had been produced at the Strand Theatre, Mrs. Stirling in the part of Iolanthe. Much interest was excited among play-goers to compare these two artists.

The Christmas novelty at this theatre was a grand extravaganza, by the Messrs. Brough, entitled "The Ninth Statue; or, the Jewels and the Gem." It was founded on one of the "Arabian Nights" tales. The jokes—sometimes too broad, but always humorous, in which these writers are so fertile—formed, of course, the staple of the piece, which was sustained by the Imperial Bland, Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam (a young lady who is rapidly improving both as a vocalist and actress), Miss P. Horton, Mr. Munyard (a clever low comedian, now deceased), and the general staff of the theatre. The extravaganza, which was well put on the stage, was successful, and it subsequently had a fair average run.

A farce, in three acts, called a comedy, written by Mr. Buckstone the actor, was produced on the 15th January. It was called "Leap-Year," and its humour turned on the traditional right of the ladies to propose to the gentlemen in that year. Without noticing in detail the humours of the subordinate characters, it is sufficient to say, that the main interest of the piece turned upon the very hazardous device of making a lady fall in love with her footman, who is only discovered to be a gentleman in disguise after his mistress has determined to break through all restraint, even that imposed by his own deferential respect, and propose marriage to him. This dangerous incident was rendered harmless in its effect on the spectators' mind, only by the admirable delicacy and tact with which Mr. and Mrs. Kean acted their several parts. The piece was successful, and had a run.

A tribute was paid, during the season, to the merits of Mr. Douglas Jerrold as a dramatist, by the revival of some of his most successful pieces. The vitality of true dramatic talent was exhibited in the renewed favour with which these pieces were received, coming, as they did, upon audiences with all the freshness of novelty.

The Easter piece was by the Brothers Brough. It was a burlesque of Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe," treated with the breadth and humour that have characterised the comic writings of these gentlemen. This piece had the merit of not being a mere travesty, the burlesque characters being twisted into relation with some social peculiarities of the present time, and made the vehicle for some smart allusions to passing events. The Keeleys, Bland, Selby, Mrs. Fitzwilliam, and Miss P. Horton contributed their several specialities of comicality; and the piece, besides being received with roars of laughter on Easter Monday, continued for a long time to amuse audiences not so easily pleased.

The announcement of a new comedy by Mr. Douglas Jerrold was an event sure to command attention. In fact, the most lively expectations had been formed of the result. Those expectations were only partially realised. In all Mr. Jerrold's dramatic works there had been manifested a tendency to make construction, and occasionally even the development of character, subordinate to that gentleman's unrivalled powers of writing brilliant dialogue and biting sarcasm. In this new work this tendency was carried to an extent which, but for the merits of the dialogue, might have been fatal to the success of the piece. The title, "The Catpaw," suggested expectations that another character would be hewn out, and placed in the dramatic sculpture gallery. This expectation was not realised; Mr. Snowball, the so-called "Catpaw," having been only the temporary dupe of a number of aimless and commonplace intrigues, resulting, not in his being made a "catpaw," but in his own emancipation from his fictitious troubles.

A dialogue made up, however, for the want of artistic plot and probable character. Although not of so high an order as some that has come from the pen of this accomplished writer, it exhibited a series of sprightly sallies and ad hoc undum jokes, which kept the audience alive with amusement, even after what little interest there was in the action of the piece had ceased, at the close of the third act. The comedy was played for a considerable time during the season.

LYCEUM.

Our task in noticing the "season" at this theatre will be agreeably easy, from the unusual fact of one successful piece having crowded the theatre from its first production, at Christmas, until the close of the theatre long after midsummer. What made this success the more remarkable was its having been due not merely to one piece, but to one scene of that piece; a proof that the playgoing public can appreciate the beautiful with cordiality, when it is put before them strikingly. The piece was called the "Island of Jewels." It was constructed by Mr. Planché, with something less than his usual tact, but it was still sufficiently amusing. There were parts in it for Madame Vestris, Miss Julia St. George (a sprightly dashing actress, who will one day be a favourite), Mr. Frank Matthews, &c. A little incidental ballet, recalling the stage dancing of a century ago, and entitled "Cupid and Psyche," was very neatly and quaintly managed; but the great glory of the piece was the first scene—a triumph of the artist. Mr. Planché, unaided by the combination of simplicity of construction with the power of his own pen, had produced a masterpiece.



"AHOLIBAH!"—PAINTED BY E. ARMITAGE.

tree afforded at once the idea and the means of producing the effect. The repute of this triumphant display ran through the town, and it is no figure of speech to say that "everybody" went to see it.

The success of this piece had precluded the necessity of producing novelties; but at Easter, in obedience to custom, a new piece was brought out. The accomplished tact of Mr. Planché was enlisted,

for the purpose. He struck out in a new field, producing a revival with a pleasant dash of burlesque and modern application, of the pastoral drama of Gay, Dryden, and Garrick, "Cymon and Iphigenia." The *finesse* and neatness of Mr. Planché in this line of dramatic writing, which he may almost be said to have originated, was signally manifested in this production. He was able to follow the

original very closely, and yet, without forcing the humour, to invest it with a contemporary interest. Miss Julia St. George, as *Cymon*, played with superior intelligence and tact; and Mr. Frank Mathews, as the deaf old woman, *Dorcas*, hit out a line to him new. Mr. Charles Matthews, as a sort of chorus, rejoiced in a character which only he can adequately fill, pointing the jokes with peculiar pungency,



"THE GUARD-ROOM."—PAINTED BY L. HAGHE.

and singing his *patter* songs with incredible volubility. The characters in the drama proper were all habited in the formal and antiquated costume of the last century; and Mr. Planché, who has an eye for the poetical and the beautiful, even when trifling with the spirit of burlesque, seized the opportunity to introduce some pretty dances and groupings that were like living embodiments of Watteau's pictures. This burlesque was successful, but the "Island of Jewels" still continued the chief attraction, even until the final close of the season, with the exception of a piece produced at Whitsuntide, intended as a *revue* on the French model, and satirizing, by anticipation, the great Exposition of 1851. It was written by Mr. Tom Taylor and Mr. Albert Smith.

OLYMPIC.

Contemporaneously with the experiment of Mr. Anderson, at Drury Lane, a similar attempt was made in the new Olympic Theatre, which had been very rapidly rebuilt on the site of the old one, destroyed by fire. The lessee of the Marylebone Theatre, had taken the new structure, for which he had engaged a company, including some of the best performers then available. In addition to an American lady, Mrs. Mowatt, whose personal beauty and general ability as an actress had attracted attention at the Marylebone Theatre, there were on the list Mr. Compton, the original and racy comedian; Mr. G. V. Brooke, the tragedian; Mr. Wigan, an able actor in small parts requiring finish of detail; Mr. Ryder, Mr. John Herbert, Mr. Holl, Miss F. Vining, Mrs. H. Marston, &c. The theatre had been decorated with much elegance, and the season commenced, under favourable auspices, with Shakspeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona," preceded by an opening address, which was spoken by Mrs. Mowatt. A pantomime was produced, entitled "Laugh and Grow Fat, or Harlequin Nutcrackers." It was concocted *apropos* the festivities of the Christmas season; but, although the talents of Mr. T. Matthews were engaged as *Clown*, the piece was not very successful. In effect, it proved an inauspicious commencement of an unfortunate season.

Mrs. Mowatt, the American actress above mentioned, had already solicited the suffrages of the public at the Marylebone Theatre, as an authoress as well as actress. Soon after the opening of the Olympic Theatre, her comedy entitled "Fashion, or Life in New York," which

had been played with success in the different cities of the Union, was brought out with a very effective cast and with good mounting. This play was professedly a satire on American manners, and was,

masterly conception of a new character; and Mrs. Mowatt, by her performance of the heroine, augmented the repute she had gained by her *Ariane*.

therefore, to be criticised not with the severity due in the case of an original comedy written for the English stage. Its merits as a drama were very slight, the characters being, for the most part, coarse exaggerations of familiar English dramatic types, and the dialogue deficient in point or refinement. It had accorded to it a brief success, more because it was a curiosity, than on account of any intrinsic merit.

A version of Corneille's "Ariane," poetically turned by Mr. John Oxenford, was the next novelty at this theatre. It introduced Mrs. Mowatt in a character which was decidedly her best, developing a faculty for declamation and the expression of pathos in which she is not excelled by any British actress. Miss F. Vining, also, in the character of *Phedra*, displayed a passionate earnestness in the only opening afforded by the part. The tragedy was beautifully mounted, and proved decidedly successful.

Two farces were produced during the same week: the first, by Mr. Holl, unsuccessful; the second, by Mr. A. Wigan, entitled "A Dead Take-in"—a hit.

On the 4th of February Mr. Gustavus Brooke re-appeared in London, in the character of *Othello*, in which his *début* at the old Olympic Theatre had created so great a sensation. A crowded audience, including most of the literary and critical celebrities of the day, awarded him a warm and encouraging welcome. Want of novelty was not among the errors of the management of this theatre. The engagement of Mr. Brooke afforded occasion, not merely for his appearance in Shakspearian characters, but in a tragedy written by Mr. G. H. Lewes, a novelist and general *litterateur* of eminence, which was produced on the 18th February. The title, "The Noble Heart," was scarcely an index to the plot, which turns on the unconscious love of a Castilian noble for the betrothed of his son, ending with a discovery and recognition of his son's rights. The play was deficient in dramatic force and constructive skill; but these shortcomings were compensated for by a highly poetical dialogue. The acting served to prove that Mr. Brooke could grasp a



MISS FREDERIKA BREMER.



ELECTION SATURDAY AT ETON.—REGATTA AND FIREWORKS.

The theatre soon after suddenly closed, in consequence of defalcations by the manager.

ST. JAMES'S.—THE DRAMATIC SEASON.

After Easter, Mr. Mitchell commenced his ordinary season of French plays, opening in splendid style with Scribe's *chef d'œuvre*, "Bertrand et Raton." We can do little more than mention the names of the various works produced, and of the distinguished artists whom Mr. Mitchell collected together in this brilliant series of performances. To do more would call for a description and analysis which would exceed the limits of this cursory review. The chief attraction of the opening play was the *Bertrand* of Monsieur Samson, by whom the part was originally performed when the play was produced, in 1833. The next pieces were "L'Ecole des Vieillards" and "Les Projets de Mariage," in which Mlle. Denain added her attraction to that of M. Samson.

The comedy "Un Veuve" presented M. Samson in his double character of author and actor. Written in verse, this comedy, with a certain classicity of style, nevertheless admits of much character. M. Samson's impersonation of the unfortunate widower, who strives in vain to escape from his female pursuers, was the perfection of finished humour.

The production of Emile Augier's comedy, "Gabrielle," proved a great attraction. A singular evidence of the different state of manners in this country and in France was afforded by the fact, that this play, written professedly with a moral and didactic intention for France, should exhibit such a machinery and such arguments for the purpose as could not be accepted by an English audience, except with a knowledge that such had been the author's intention. Not that there was anything objectionable in either—but that a state of morals and manners is assumed as the basis of operations of which we, in England, have no conception. The moral turns on the rescue of a young wife, by the forbearance and magnanimity of her husband, from an impending infidelity. Regnier, who had been added to the company, exhibited his accomplished art in the part of the husband; and Mlle. Nathalie displayed much truthful feeling as the wife.

Following the performance of his "Louison," came M. de Musset's *proverbe* "Il faut qu'une Porte soit Ouverte ou Fermée," in which the exquisite acting of M. Lafont in *Le Comte*, and Mlle. Nathalie in *La Marquise*, was conspicuous.

The French season, which had congregated a brilliant galaxy of histrionic talent, was brought to a close towards the end of June.

The next month opened with a great event for those who sympathise with genius of the highest order. Rachel, the *tragédienne par excellence*, had been engaged by Mr. Mitchell for a series of twelve performances, the first of which took place on the 1st of July. If we had not already, in the course of those performances, expressed in detail our profound admiration of the genius of this great artist, we could here renew the impressions of delight which, night after night, rewarded us for the toilsome task of the critic in recording the surfeiting pleasures of a long season of amusements. Time, it is true, has somewhat touched, though slightly, the personal charms, and attenuated the *physique* of Rachel, but her marvellous inspiration remains as ever; and, perhaps, in the whole course of her career, she has not more triumphantly asserted her tragic power than in some of the characters which were revived for her reappearance. In "Phèdre," "Roxane," "Camille," and in the last scene of the "Polyeucte" (in which she had not hitherto played in England) all her transcendent powers were exerted in embodying her unique and perfect conceptions. She also appeared in her last new character *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, in the five-act play of that name. We need not renew impressions of a performance so recent.

After the departure of Rachel, Mrs. Fanny Kemble (Mrs. Butler) commenced a series of Shakespearean readings, which proved highly successful.

THE ADELPHI.

The Christmas piece here was "Frankenstein; or, the Model Man," one of those "extravaganzas" conceived in that spirit of mockery and burlesque, of all things, however awful or beautiful, which we regret to see becoming the fashion with playwrights and playgoers. The character of the piece may be inferred from the cast of the two principal persons; Mr. Wright being the *Frankenstein*, and Mr. Paul Bedford the *Monster*. This burlesque, which was boldly aimed at the capacity of an Adelphi audience, had the usual run of success.

A farce, of the regular Adelphi species, was produced here on the 18th February, which ran for a considerable time, and much helped towards the sum of hilarity during the season. It was called "My Precious Betsy," a title alone enough to tickle an Adelphi audience, especially when the names of Wright and Paul Bedford were in the cast. The humour of the former, as a tradesman inflated by sudden riches, and afterwards as a husband tormented by causeless jealousy, formed the staple attraction of this piece.

The management of this theatre did not exhibit, during the past season, so much activity as usual; perhaps because the pieces produced proved sufficiently attractive. About the middle of March a two-act drama, by Mr. Douglas Jerrold, originally played at the Haymarket as "The Mother," was revived. The piece afforded scope for Mme. Celeste, and it was temporarily successful.

The ever fertile invention of the French dramatists furnished the groundwork of the Easter piece at this theatre, which was entitled, "Playing First Fiddle, or Follow my Leader." Mme. Celeste, as a quick-witted young French scullion, who, having a musical gift, exercises all sorts of influence by means of his clever violin playing, sustained with her accustomed tact the chief weight of the piece, in which she was well supported by Miss Woolgar, a kindred spirit whom fate had made a baker's boy. A part was also found for Miss Kathleen Fitzwilliam, whose charming singing contributed, in no slight degree, to the success of the piece.

"The White Sergeants; or, the Buttermilk Volunteers," is a title sufficiently suggestive of one of those regular Adelphi pieces, in which a coterie of young ladies, with very small waists, tremendous hips, and an instinctive horror of powder and shot, are permitted to assume the military attire, for the purpose first of annoying, and then of making it up with their respective swains or husbands. The young ladies succeeded, as did the piece.

The next novelty was a characteristic Adelphi farce, called "Jack-in-the-Box." The fun mainly centres in Mr. Wright, who, as *Bob Brynstone*, an individual in the "coal and tater line," has visions of his supposed high birth thrust before him; tries, with condign ill-success, his hand at fashion and good-breeding; and, in the end, repentantly seeks re-admission to those ranks in which fate and the Herald's College had evidently cast his lot.

A sequel of the last of the "Jack-in-the-Box" from the pen of Mr. Alfred Smith, was played after it, and with success. A melodrama, entitled "The Emigré's Daughter," by Mr. Bayle Bernard, embodying a story of domestic suffering during the French Revolution, was not successful in proportion to the amount of talent and care bestowed by the author. Pieces of this class require to be dashed off with breadth and force. Delicacy and *finesse* are utterly thrown away on audiences who go to the theatre for excitement, and would not be critical if they could. Shortly after the production of this piece the theatre closed for the season; but the company played for a brief period at the Haymarket Theatre, whilst the Adelphi was being renovated.

STRAND THEATRE.

Mr. William Thomas, the manager of this theatre, commenced his season of plays on the 1st of March, with a new play, called "The Emigré's Daughter," by Mr. Bayle Bernard, embodying a story of domestic suffering during the French Revolution, was not successful in proportion to the amount of talent and care bestowed by the author. Pieces of this class require to be dashed off with breadth and force. Delicacy and *finesse* are utterly thrown away on audiences who go to the theatre for excitement, and would not be critical if they could. Shortly after the production of this piece the theatre closed for the season; but the company played for a brief period at the Haymarket Theatre, whilst the Adelphi was being renovated.

A successful attempt at a higher style of burlesque than that lat-



MODEL OF AMPHITRITE.—BY J. THOMAS.

terly popular at theatres of more pretension, was rewarded with deserved success when produced at this little band-box of a theatre at Christmas. Mr. Tom Taylor had dished up a series of what may, by contrast, be termed witticisms, intermingled with no small amount of poetry and character in a piece which he entitled "Diogenes and his Lantern." The search of the cynic for an honest man gave scope for much good-natured yet pungent satire, and the dialogue was written in a style far superior to the average productions of the hour. The strength of this choice and well-compacted little company was employed in the acting.

A dramatic version of the "Vicar of Wakefield," with the principal characters sustained by Mr. Farren and Mrs. Glover, had proved

a great attraction at this theatre, so much so, that at Easter the manager only found it necessary to revive a comedietta, by Mr. Mark Lemon, entitled "His First Champagne."

Novelties succeeded each other rapidly at this little theatre. Among them was a one-act piece, embodying a tale of domestic life, entitled "Poor Cousin Walter." It was from the pen of Mr. Palgrave Simpson, and showed constructive tact and facility in dialogue.

Close upon the heels of this last came another little piece—a capital farce—by Mr. J. M. Morton. *Friend Waggle*, personated by Mr. Compton, sufficiently suggests the comicality of the piece.

Shortly after was brought out a farce, entitled "Not to be Done," in which Mr. Leigh Murray was the principal performer—appearing in the double character of a drunken cobbler and snuffy old woman—metamorphoses with which it is intended to "do" one *Jonas Downy-wag* (Mr. H. Farren), who, however, sees through the disguises, and is "Not to be Done."

The success of "Diogenes" prompted Mr. Tom Taylor to produce "Whitsun Morality," conceived in a similar spirit, and called the "Philosopher's Stone." It takes the notorious quack physician Paracelsus as the agent of all sorts of satire on modern mammonism, and points a moral somewhat similar to that in the concluding scenes of *Faust*, by showing that too much wealth leads to much misery.

On the 10th, a successful adaptation from Schiller's "Kabäl und Liebe," from the pen of Mr. Morris Barnett, was produced. Nothing could be more unrepresentable or unacceptable than the drama as written by Schiller. Mr. Morris Barnett did not so much adapt it, as that he founded a new work upon it; in this successfully following up a method, which, because it implies a considerable amount of invention, will, if continued, relieve our contemporary playwrights from a great portion of the odium and contempt justly visited on their wholesale robberies from the French.

One event of the season was of a peculiarly painful character. Mrs. Glover, after upwards of fifty years spent upon the stage, during the greater part of which she had been one of its chief ornaments and supports, at last retired. Mrs. Glover took leave of the stage, on the 8th of June, in the character of *Mrs. Malaprop*, at this theatre. Her farewell benefit took place on the 12th of July, when the universal respect in which she was held was best attested by the presence, in Drury-Lane Theatre, of the most crowded audience its walls had contained during many years. The most distinguished members of the dramatic profession volunteered their services on the occasion; and an entertainment was given, full of the best talent the country could afford. Still, all interest—and it proved a melancholy one—centred in the aged lady who was about to retire. Mrs. Glover had been confined to her bed for many days by a wasting illness. She was earnestly entreated not to appear on the occasion of her benefit; but her desire not to disappoint the public overruled all prudential considerations. She came upon the stage, and, as a matter of form, went through her part; but, at the close, she was so utterly exhausted as to be unable to deliver the farewell address which had been prepared. Four days after, the public were deeply grieved to hear that this accomplished artiste was no more.

SADLER'S WELLS.

After a series of three excellent performances of the legitimate drama which have procured for this theatre a special reputation, the management produced, on the 11th of February, a five-act play, of which the author was Mr. George Bennett, the popular actor. The plot and incident of this play are certainly melodramatic, to use the common term applied to what is, more strictly speaking, the romantic drama. The scene is laid in the time of the Civil War, and a deep domestic interest in the underplot is skillfully interwoven with the usual struggle between rival passions and high and low by the villainy of the principal characters. These were sustained with great vigour and strong colouring by Mr. Bennett himself and Mr. Phelps, the manager. As a literary work, this play is highly creditable to Mr. George Bennett, mainly owing as it does considerable constructive skill, knowledge of stage effect, and a respectable amount of good practical writing in the dialogue. Dramas of this class are better suited to the visitors of the minor theatres than more classical works, and we hope to meet Mr. George Bennett again, laying his ability and professional knowledge in the same direction.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL MONOLOGUES.

Mr. Bunn, the veteran manager, who knows, perhaps, more about things theatrical than any other man of his own time, gave at the St. James's, at the close of February, and several evenings in March, a series of monologues, entitled "Mr. Bunn on the Stage." Public curiosity was piqued, in the expectation of piquant anecdotes, anecdotical, and amusing dramatics. Mr. Bunn's lecture proved to be something different, but wholly very amusing. The first part was devoted to the vindication of Shakespeare from the commentators, actors, and critics—a task performed by Mr. Bunn with great vivacity and humour, setting off no slight amount of reading and knowledge. The second part, which treated of a history of the stage, from the "revival" to the present time, was interspersed with matters of more personal and less historical interest. Mr. Bunn proved himself



MARBLE STATUE OF THE POET CAMPBELL, BY W. C. M. MARSHALL, A.R.A., TO BE PLACED IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

an accomplished elocutionist in his delivery of quoted passages, and in his "story-telling" fully sustained his reputation as a humorous raconteur. The attempt was successful; and Mr. Bunn, besides "running" the entertainment a sufficient number of nights here, obtained various provincial engagements for its repetition.

Mr. ALBERT SMITH'S "OVERLAND MAIL."—Under this title Mr. Albert Smith gave a narrative reminiscence of his recent journey to the East. Such of his experiences as he had not exhausted in his very interesting book upon the subject of his flying visit to the East, he threw into the form of a musical and dramatic monologue, and the result was a highly amusing and not uninteresting entertainment, illustrated by some very beautiful panoramic views, and interspersed with some singing, in the style which makes Mr. Albert Smith so popular in private society.

Mr. JOHN PARRY commenced, on the 24th June, at the Music-hall, in Store-street, an entertainment in the same strain as those which have already made him so popular as the most original and versatile successor of Matthews. As in his former monologues, music furnished a large share in the amusement derived from this entertainment; but its peculiar characteristic was, that it satirised, in very happy vein, some of the social absurdities generated in the growing taste for music.

THE WINDSOR THEATRICALS.

Her Majesty, following the example of some of her predecessors having desired to give an impulse to the drama by a decided manifestation of her sanction and interest, a plan was projected of a series of dramatic performances at Windsor Castle; and the general arrangement had been confided to Mr. Charles Kean, as an actor holding a prominent position, and having an hereditary claim, as well as a gentleman likely to conduct the arrangements with judgment and amenity. As soon as the plan was made public, a very strong desire manifested itself in individual actors to obtain the privilege of playing before Royalty; and the difficulties the new director had to contend with, in settling rival claims to precedence, must have fully counterbalanced any satisfaction he derived from finding himself placed, by the favour of his Sovereign, in so honourable a position. Mr. Kean acquitted himself on the whole with great tact; and the first series of these representations went off with great éclat. Early in February a second series of these representations was commenced; and this brings them within our "season."

The first performance took place on the 1st of February, when "Julius Cæsar" was played. The performance was memorable for the appearance together, of Mr. Macready and Mr. Charles Kean, two rival stars. Among the other principal performers were Mr. James Wallack, Mr. Leigh Murray, Mr. Cooper, and Mrs. Warner. The subordinate parts were, generally speaking, well filled. A very select circle had been invited, and the performances went off with éclat. Her Majesty expressed herself much pleased.

The second performances consisted of the Haymarket version of "King René's Daughter," and Mr. Planche's favourite drama of "Charles XII."

FINE ARTS.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

The opening of the Academy Exhibition is always a great event in every season. The Exhibition for the present year was, as usual, looked for with very great interest, because there had been, for a long time previously, a violent warfare carried on in the public press against the management of the institution, from which some fruits were expected. One proof that these expectations were not wholly unfounded was, that the managers of the Academy, for the first time, sent cards of invitation to the press; one or two favoured newspapers having previously obtained admission to the private view, but only *sub rosa*. Upon the same principle that has guided us throughout this review, we, of course, abstain from entering into any minute analysis of the pictures; because those works (in number nearly 1500) were carefully examined and described in this Journal at the time. We will only point to a few of the chief features.

In spite of the acknowledged faults of this institution, there must manifestly be some benefit, when we find that the exhibitors not members or connexions of the Academy are in the proportion of seven to one of their more fortunate rivals. It was observable by any impartial person that the old monopoly and injustice that had been manifested in the "hanging" was much departed from—another proof that the conductors of the Academy acknowledge responsibility to public opinion. It was noticed that all the privileged persons did not avail themselves of their right. Among these were Mulready, Herbert, Shee, Cook, Foley, Gibson, Wyon, Sir R. Westmacott, Barry, Cockerell, Hardwicke, and the two Smirkes. On the other hand, many of the Academicians and Associates exerted themselves to keep the lead given them by their position. In the higher walks of art there were some bold attempts; for instance, Mr. Dyce's "Meeting of Jacob and Rachel;" Mr. Eastlake's "Good Samaritan;" Mr. J. Martin's "Last Man;" and Mr. Macleise's oil picture, a copy of his fresco in the House of Lords. Most of the best pictures in the Exhibition were engraved and published at the time; but there was one picture, of considerable pretensions, and which attracted much notice. We allude to Mr. Armitage's "Aholibah," of which we spoke at the time as a work of merit, full of character and truth. We now give an illustration of this picture.

Still, the strength of the Exhibition lay in the subject pictures and in the landscapes. Mr. Ellmore proved that he had made great strides; and Mr. Ward's picture of "James the Second" was worthy of his old reputation. Mr. Eastlake's "Escape of Francisco Carrara" is now in the Vernon Gallery. Among other pictures which commanded attention were Mr. Cope's "Cordelia;" Mr. Frost's "Disarming of Cupid;" and his "Andromeda." A little sketch of Cope's fresco in the House of Lords furnishes us with the subject for an illustration.

Among the landscape-painters, Stanfield stood pre-eminent. His "View of Dort" was one of the finest things we have had from his pencil. Four other works of the same artist also sustained his reputation. Lee and Cooper contributed several of their favourite cattle landscapes, and Mr. Creswick kept his high position, more especially in his picture "The First Glimpse of the Sea." Linnell, young Danby, and Boddington, also kept their position. The elder Danby asserted his high rank as an imaginative landscape painter. Of course there was a host of portraits, the most remarkable of which we alluded to at the period of the Exhibition.

The Sculpture-Room of the Royal Academy is, unfortunately, too often passed over. We noticed at the time some of the more striking works. We now add an illustration of a work which attracted attention. Mr. Thomas's "Amphitrite" is a conception which irresistibly recalls the "Ariadne" of Daneker. But if the idea of Mr. Thomas's figure be not original, its execution compensates for the want of novelty. We also give an illustration of Mr. Calder Marshall's "Statue of Campbell," which, although not in this year's Exhibition, is a work in which the poetic character of the man is sustained. The figure is dignified, and the arrangement of the drapery graceful. It is intended for Poet's Corner, in Westminster Abbey.

Upon the whole, the Academy Exhibition was not unworthy of the growing pretensions of contemporary British art. In that branch which we may specially claim as national—landscape-painting—it could challenge competition with any of its predecessors, more especially in the evidences of talent exhibited by young and comparatively unknown artists.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

This Exhibition fully sustained the character of the Society without much advancing it. It was to us satisfactory to find that the Royal Academicians, who enjoy such a monopoly on their own ground, had abstained from competing with their self-associated brethren. Mr. George Jones is the only Royal Academician who exhibited. Among the Associates, six contributed pictures, and they were all men whom we could not spare: Mr. Sidney Cooper, Mr. Creswick, Mr. Redgrave, Mr. Frost, whose "Musidora" was the most perfect thing we remember even from his graceful pencil; Mr. Danby, and Mr. Marshall, the sculptor. This exhibition strongly points out to English artists in what their strength lies. To those who affect "high art" without having the knowledge or the powers necessary for its

production, it speaks plainly that they should drop their pretensions. If there were any unfavourable impression left by a cursory view of this exhibition, it would certainly have arisen from the failure of these ambitious attempts. It is agreeable to turn from the efforts of Sir George Hayter, Mr. Newenham, and Mr. Salter, to the more successful artists, who modestly work out their simple ideas, and produce works that are at least national. Mr. Cooper's cattle landscapes; Mr. Herring's animal pieces; Mr. Creswick's fresh and cheerful landscapes; Mr. Lance's marvellous fruit pieces; Mr. Ansell's bold sporting pictures; Mr. Sant's clever and various pictures, so extraordinary for colour; Mr. F. Goodall's "Post-office;" Mr. Jutsum's landscapes; Copley Fielding's unapproachable mountain and moorland scenes, and let us add one marine sketch, a perfect gem; Mr. Linnell's rich warm landscapes; Mr. Frank Stone's domestic pieces; besides those we have specially mentioned, and others of less reputation, whom we would fain particularise if our space allowed—asserted in this exhibition the elastic vigour of British art in those branches where its distinctive and national character has been most powerfully exhibited.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

Our readers will remember that last year, at the Chinese Gallery, was the second anniversary of what was called the Free Exhibition of Modern British Art; that is to say, an exhibition of pictures by artists associated together to protect themselves against the monopoly of the Royal Academy. This year the Society had taken a large room built for the purpose in Regent-street, and the exhibition was highly creditable to the associated artists. Mr. R. S. Lauder, the president, produced the best pictures in the high art line. After him came Mr. Armitage, Mr. Desanges, and Mr. Claxton. Mr. Meian contributed some of his striking Scotch pieces; and the exhibition was rich in landscapes, among which those of the prolific families of Percy and Williams were the most numerous.

SUFFOLK-STREET GALLERY.

This Exhibition was even worse than usual. Mr. Anthony's extraordinary landscapes, however, Mr. Herring's cattle pictures, Mr. Pyne's landscape views, Mr. Hurlstone's composition pictures, and Mr. Baxter's portraits, contributed, with some other minor evidences of ability, to redeem its general inferiority.

THE OLD WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.

A character of permanence and sustentation always attaches to exhibitions of this Society. If the artists do not advance they do not retrograde, and all the more prominent men are distinguished by acknowledged and accredited talent. As we have already given an analysis of the exhibition, we need only mention the names of Copley, Fielding, Cattermole, Prout, Cox, Topham, Hunt, Alfred Fripp, and J. Jenkins—not as being the only meritorious, but the most meritorious. Yet we should be unjust in omitting the name of Mr. John F. Lewis, who, after a prolonged absence, returned to the Society with a picture which was one of the subjects of town talk during the season. It represented the interior of a harem in Egypt; and whether in Oriental luxuriance of design, or in the singular mechanism of the execution, it was certainly the most remarkable production exhibited during the year. A shadow was thrown over the exhibition by the absence of the well known landscape-scenes of De Wint.

NEW WATER-COLOUR SOCIETY.

This Exhibition for the present year was very good; presenting a greater variety and individual excellence, all things considered, than we remember. We are accustomed here to look to the names of Warren, Corbould, Haghe, Wachner, and Vacher among the more ambitious artists; and, on this occasion, they sustained their high character. Mr. Wachner's "Caxton" is one of the finest things he has yet done. Mr. Vacher quitted Venice, and took to the East, presenting us with some wonderfully true pictures, in which we could almost feel the atmosphere. Mr. Corbould had two striking pictures: the one, "Louisa," beautiful; the other, "Elgiva," powerfully drawn, but painful in subject. Mr. Haghe's three works, "The Miseries of War," a "Guard-Room," and a "Khebeel," were among the most remarkable pictures in the gallery. Of the second of these we present our readers with a sketch. To the "Miseries of War" the artist has appended the following lines:—

O War! thou son of Hell,
Whom angry heavens do make their minister,
Throw in the frozen bosoms of our part
Hot coals of vengeance!

It would have been difficult for Mr. Haghe to have discovered a quotation less applicable than this to the picture he has painted. His so-called "Miseries of War" is a sort of a guard-room of a castle, with a party of prisoners (not very unhappy), and a party of victors (if such they be) sitting good-humouredly down—one to write a letter, and others, as it were, to kill time. Such is the sentiment of this picture; but, when we pass to its execution, nothing can be more wonderful—the truth of effect and detail, the De Hooghe-like light which pervades the whole interior, are all in Mr. Haghe's unrivalled manner.

In every Water-Colour Exhibition the ladies are eminent. There is something in the delicacy of the medium which seems to tempt their minds. Among the contributors we are bound to mention Miss F. Corboux, Miss Setchell, and last, though not least, Mrs. Margetts, whose fruit and flower pieces are, as usual, perfect. Mr. Fahey, the secretary, had an excellent Kentish landscape; and Mr. Davidson, till now one of the notabilities of the Society in respect to his fresh green landscapes and woodland scenes, found a powerful rival in Mr. Bennett, a comparatively new contributor.

MISCELLANEOUS EXHIBITIONS.

One of the earliest exhibitions to which public attention was called was Mr. John Henning's (junior) "Iliac Table" (the shield of Achilles, executed by him for Lord Northwick.) The designer's object was to illustrate Homer's description of the shield of Achilles; and in the execution of that design he exhibited a fine classical taste, as well in the groupings as in the single figures.

Mr. R. GORDON COCHRAN, a Scottish gentleman of family, contributed one of the most extraordinary and interesting exhibitions, not merely of the past season, but that had ever been presented in England. Among sportsmen, this gentleman, we apprehend, must take the foremost rank. Holding a commission in the army at the Cape, he conceived an extraordinary desire to gratify his passion for sporting to an extent probably never exceeded by any predecessor, savage or civilised. In his youth he had been a famous deer-stalker, and his keen love of sport had carried him on from difficulty to difficulty in various quarters of the world, from species to species of the various animals marked out for the chase, until nothing would satisfy him short of a three years' campaign in the wilds of Southern Africa, where he might bring himself face to face with the most savage monsters of the brute creation. He converted his worldly goods into money, with which he purchased waggons, teams of oxen, horses, and all kinds of stores necessary at once for trade with the Boers and natives, and set forth boldly on his career. The narrative of his adventures, as subsequently published in two volumes, proved one of the most interesting and successful publications of the season, running, in a very short space of time, through three editions. Prior to its publication he opened the Exhibition to which we refer, in the building which had been occupied as the Chinese Gallery. It consisted of innumerable trophies won by him in his arduous sporting adventures in pursuit of the elephant, the hippopotamus, the lion, and the various other natives of the wild regions which witnessed his adventures.

MIDLE VANDERMEERSCH, a young French lady, arrived somewhat late in the season, with a very remarkable exhibition of "Learned Birds," which at once attracted the attention of the aristocracy, to whose soirées she was very extensively called. The Duchess of Sutherland, the Marchioness of Londonderry, and other distinguished ladies were among her chief patrons.

EXHIBITION OF MEDIEVAL ART.—One of the most important events of the season was the opening, at the rooms of the Society of Arts, at the Adelphi, of an exhibition of numberless relics of mediæval art, contributed for the purpose by their various owners. In our Number of the 23rd of March we gave a lengthened analysis of the contents of this exhibition, together with copious illustrations of the more remarkable and beautiful specimens. It is, therefore, unnecessary

for us now to do more than take cognizance of the fact of this Exposition having proved one of the great and distinctive features of the last season.

A fine piece of mosaic pavement, discovered by Monsieur Jovet, in Burgundy, attracted the attention of the higher class of amateurs of the arts during the season. It represents the combat of Bellerophon with Chimæra; and the effect, although the design is worked out by the use of so unpliant a material, reminds one of the gigantic vigour and freedom of some great work of Michael Angelo.

DAY EXHIBITIONS AND OUT-DOOR AMUSEMENTS.

These are among the permanent attractions of London, and, therefore, only call for a most cursory mention in a review of the Season. Among the first, are the Colosseum, with its gigantic views and other attractions; the Cyclorama, with its picturesque and terrible portrayal of the Earthquake at Lisbon; the Cosmorama, a sort of general exhibition-room for peripatetic attractions; and the Polytechnic Institution, which, as combining a vast amount of instruction with continual amusement, is the most valuable of them all.

Among the out-door amusements, there were—the Scottish Fête in Holland-park, which may now be regarded as an annual *re-union*; Vauxhall Gardens, Cremorne Gardens, the Zoological Gardens (where the hippopotamus has been the cynosure of all eyes), the Surrey Zoological Gardens, and, though they deserve a more prominent notice, the splendid floral *fêtes* of the Horticultural Society and the Botanic Society. During the Season, too, the Chinese Junk was brought up from its old station at Blackwall to a mooring above Blackfriars-bridge. It was visited during the season by thousands of persons.

THE PANORAMAS.

One of the distinctive characteristics of the past season has been the extraordinary increase in the number and variety of pictorial exhibitions illustrative of scenery in various parts of the world. The patronage so universally bestowed on these exhibitions—too often upon trust, as regards the accuracy of the representations—attests the anxiety for information when conveyed through this most effectual and impressive medium. We shall give a notice of these different exhibitions, taking them in the order of time.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.—The deep interest felt by the public in the fate of Sir John Franklin's expedition suggested the exhibition of a panorama of the Arctic regions. This was opened in an exhibition-room in the Haymarket, and it proved successful. The views were painted from drawings by Sir James Ross, Captain Lyon, and Captain Beechey.

MR. BANVARD'S PANORAMA OF THE OHIO was a natural pendant to his monster panorama of the Mississippi. There was much controversy as to whether these gigantic views by Mr. Banvard were to be depended upon for accuracy. Although somewhat coarsely executed, they were marked by much vigour and local character; and, in the absence of any authentic evidence of imposition, the public flocked in crowds to see them, not only in London but in the provinces.

MR. BREE'S PANORAMA OF NEW ZEALAND was one of the most interesting and most authentic of the various panoramas of the season. At a time when the question of emigration occupied so much of the attention of all classes, this exhibition, respectfully attested as it was, became useful and instructive in proportion as it was amusing. The views were chiefly in the neighbourhood of Port Nicholson; but they were subsequently augmented, so as to make them more complete as a whole. They included not merely pictures of places, but also clever illustrations of colonial life. An additional value was given to them by the personal explanations of Mr. Brees himself, who delivered regularly a descriptive lecture.

THE PICTURESQUE EXHIBITION.—At the end of February there was opened, in a new gallery or theatre adjoining the Polytechnic Institution, a pictorial novelty equally amusing and instructive. It was, apparently, an attempt to ascertain whether the public would take as much interest in views of their own country as in those which represent the wonders of foreign parts. Mr. J. W. Allen, the artist of this panorama, had chosen for his theme the course of the North-Western Railway, from Primrose-hill to the new Britannia Bridge, at Holyhead; and he presented a series of highly interesting views (some familiar, but not the less amusing in their new shape) of all the more remarkable features of the route. The views were boldly painted and well received.

THE DIORAMA.—An old friend with a new face, this favourite and popular exhibition re-opened for the season on the 8th of March, with a very fine view of the Rhine from the Castle of Stolzenfels, and a picture of "The Shrine of the Nativity." As a property, the Diorama has often changed hands; and, at the close of the season, it was once more sold.

PHILLIPS'S IRISH PANORAMA.—The memorable visit of her Majesty to her Irish dominion furnished Mr. Phillips, the artist, with a subject for a diorama, which was exhibited during great part of the season. Commencing at Cove, and terminating at Belfast, this diorama included some of the most beautiful views in the Sister Island; the artist having availed himself of occasional visits of the her Majesty and Prince to the interior, in order to add some gems of mountain and river scenery. This production was honourably distinguished from some of the panoramas of the season, by its being a faithful representation.

PRUT'S PANORAMA OF AUSTRALIA.—Mr. J. S. Prout, a relative of the well-known artist, produced at the Western Institution, in Leicester-square, a panorama consisting of illustrations of nature and life in Australia. From some cause or other it did not prove quite so successful as the interest attaching to its subject might fairly have led its projectors to anticipate.

FREMONT'S DIORAMA OF THE OVERLAND ROUTE TO OREGON, &c.—This painting, executed, it is said, by Colonel Fremont, for the Government of the United States, exhibited in four parts or sections the overland route to Oregon, Texas, and California, across the Rocky Mountains. The treatment of his subject by Colonel Fremont was graphic in the extreme, and the specialities of a region so recently claiming an historical importance were represented with a careful hand.

BURFORD'S PANORAMA OF KILLARNEY.—We almost owe Mr. Burford an apology for lumping him together with the more fugitive panoramic exhibitions. His pictures have pretensions as works of art that raise them to so high a rank that one can only regret they are not more permanent. The turn of fashion in touring towards Killarney, coupled with the Queen's visit to Ireland, gave Mr. Burford a good opportunity for painting the exquisite scenery of the Irish lakes. As a work of art, this picture was in some respects superior even to previous ones.

Beyond all question, the most important and successful of the moving panoramas provided during the past season for the sight-seeing public, was that which represented the OVERLAND JOURNEY TO INDIA. Unlike many of the others, this work combined great fidelity of detail, with superior merits in an artistic point of view. Stanfield, Herring, Absolon, and others were engaged upon it, and they produced a series of views, each of which was a picture, designed and executed in a superior style of art. This panorama proved a "hit." The large room in Regent-street, called the Gallery of Illustration, was crowded at each representation, and numbers failed to obtain admission. Ultimately, the projectors were compelled to give an additional representation, making three every day.

We could scarcely omit, in our notice of "the Season," to advert to the temporary residence among us of the Nepalese Princes, who were quite "the rage" during the period of their stay, visiting all the places of amusement, and taking part in things so strange to them with a gusto that implied a considerable amount of intuitive knowledge of the world. During the Season, also, London was visited by the distinguished Swedish novelist Frederika Bremer, who passed by England on her way to the United States. She arrived from Sweden on the 14th of June, spent a week with Mrs. Howitt, and then departed on her journey to America, where, it is to be supposed, she will collect materials for more of those delightful works of fiction with which she has charmed and instructed the world. The illustration we give is from a picture painted in Sweden, the only one she ever sat for.

The illustration upon page 145 shows the brilliant *finale* to the Election Saturday Regatta at Eton, on July 27. The *fête* was circumstantially described in our Journal of August 3, page 103.

SWEET SUMMER TIME

BY THOMAS MILLER.

SUMMER is again seated in her trellised arbour, amid the long green leaves which ever wave and flicker, and throw a shadow of golden net-work on the rounded whiteness of her arms, and break into beautiful lines the snowy ivory of her forehead, and the peach-like bloom of her warm sun-dyed cheeks. Around and above her, the band of birds burst into music, making every hill and valley echo again beneath their silver melody; while the flowers wave as if they vibrated to the woodland notes—sounds that the bees murmur over, and try to hum, as they linger amongst the blossoms, and which the butterfly seems listening to as it swings with folded wings on the pea-bloom, from which it can scarcely be distinguished. Over all comes the clear call of the cuckoo—a voice from a strange land—as he darts from tree to tree like an apparition, startling the summer sunbeams as they sleep lightly on the long grass, and sweeping between the slumbering shadows of the trees, for so everything seems to shiver beneath that penetrating voice, which pierces into the remotest haunts of silence. A drowsy perfume floats on the air from the distant hay-field, as if the flowers of Summer had come to offer up all their odours at the great sacrifice of the bladed grasses which had so long sheltered them; while the whole landscape is tinged with that rich colouring which Thomson has so beautifully described in one line as

Half prank'd with Spring, with Summer half embrown'd.

But beautiful as the landscape is, it lacks a charm unless woman is there to

adorn it; it seems like the Garden of Eden without Eve, if she, the "fairest flower," is absent. Whether she breaks the green of the scenery in a dress of spotless white, or of shot-silk in which are blended all the indescribable tints of the dove's neck, or wears a provoking little bonnet of pink or lavender, blue, or the pale sunlight of the primrose, or screens her silky ringlets as our Artist has here pictured her, she seems in keeping with the scenery—

Each give each a double charm,
Like pearls upon an Æthiop's arm.—DYER.

A richly-illustrated book of flowers never seems in its right place so much as when in a fair lady's hand; then it is flower gazing on flower, for "roses reigning in the pride of June" appear not more lovely than a sweet womanly face. Look what repose there is in the two exquisite figures in our Engraving; the flowers beside them are not more wrapt up in the contemplation of their own shadows in the water beneath, than they are in admiration of the work of art which has stolen the look of Nature.

Shakespeare has compared the beauty of a woman that perishes in the bloom of life to a rose that dies when it has reached perfection; and he has made *Laertes* hope that after death violets would spring from the fair and unpolluted form of *Ophelia*. It was a dream of the old poets that flowers rose from the remains of beautiful woman, that she lived again in the bells and blossoms which almost overpower us by their surpassing sweetness; that, although she knows it not, her love for flowers arises because she is akin to the sweet spirits from which they spring. Men have not half the taste for flowers which ladies possess, nor a quarter the skill in arranging a posy (we prefer the old English word before bouquet). What chasteness they display in arranging the commonest wild-flowers, making the hedge-rose harmonise with the woodbine, and throwing a yellow light over both by the graceful sprays of golden-broom, which hang like

pendants above the rosy pearl of the century or the pale pink of the perfumed convolvulus—which latter must not be sought for trailing in the hedgerows, as it loves to nestle in the open field, at the foot of corn or clover. What a play of light and beauty breaks over the sweet face of a pretty lady, when she discovers a new flower! she seems herself to change while she admires it, to "become a bud again," to catch up and give back the hue of the flower, as a rose reflects the crimson sunset that falls on its petals; or, when she holds up that queen of flowers, to inhale its sweetness; as it rests upon her lips, you can scarcely distinguish the rose from the parted crimson of the beautiful mouth, or tell the rose-leaf from the lip it reposes upon, each "stealing and giving odour," as her breath comes and goes so gently that it awakes not the rose from its sleep. Who that has read Milton, can forget the picture of Eve, where she stands "half-spied, so thick the clustering roses round about her blew," until you can scarcely discern her soft cheek, and the pearly pinkness of her rounded shoulders from the blossoms that overshadow her? We once suggested the subject to that great master of colour, Etty, and regret that he never painted it. Alas! the hand is now cold that could have made perfect so rich a picture.

Shakespeare, speaking of a dimple in the cheek, calls it a tomb made by Love himself, to be buried in when he died. We have often wondered what departed beauty he had looked upon, to suggest so exquisite a thought; could it have been the same lady whose hand he took, and compared to

A lily prison'd in a gail of snow?

We never remember seeing, amongst the flowers which the ladies wear around their flower-like faces, that little roadside ruby, the pimpernel—the richest-coloured wild-flower that grows. Surely it might be imitated; and many a sweet face would it become—a thousand times better than the large staring sprays now worn. We mean to read our English beauties a lecture some day on his subject; for we dislike seeing poppies, and great bunches of green grapes



"SWEET SUMMER TIME."—DRAWN BY GAVARNI.

and bearded ears of barley, throwing their shadows on the angelic countenances of our pretty countrywomen. Better a thousand times would be that fairy flower, the pale purple wild thyme, or the wild pencilled geranium; the crimson Adonis or rose-a-ruby, as the country ladies call it; or the pale blush of the pretty bramble-flower; or—but we should be wandering back to Spring, and from thence to the verge of Winter, or forward to brown Autumn, instead of adhering to our title of Sweet Summer Time. Ladies, Love, and Flowers! The very title suggests matter enough to fill the whole pages of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS; and feeling this, we must rein in our imagination, and descend again to the spot "which men call earth."

Dear woman!
I see the likeness of thy face
In every flower:—I can it trace
In bud or bell each even adorning,
Along with the silver dew of morning,
For thou didst spring from that sweet race.

Change of climate is not more cheering to the pale-faced invalid than a brief sojourn in the country is to the brick-baked citizen at this season of the year, when the very pavement burns his feet, and the gutters, instead of flowing, reek again with their rank exhalations. Nature, in our city squares, seems to work reluctantly. She feels that she has not the nourishment she requires; the air she breathes is poisoned with the stench from a thousand sewers; the flowers she inhales impregnated with the smoke and soot from the surrounding

chimneys and eaves. She knows that the leaves and flowers she puts forth will die before their time, so she cares not to decorate herself, but sits down ill-attired, and breathing heavily in the open, burning spaces, or crawls for a little shelter from the heat, beneath the shadow of the high dead-walls. In the country only is she happy, for in any of the green solitudes she can there find a home, and reign sole Queen, coveting neither praise nor admiration, but content to gaze upon her own attire—the flowery garments she weaves and wears. The rosy morning has thrown its colour on her cheeks, and the rounded dew of evening are the pearls that gem her flowing hair. The green skirts of her graceful garments fly out unfettered, and rustle like the long leaves when they talk to one another. She lies down, and breathes gently upon the folded buds when they close at night, and, as she turns her bright eyes to the stars above, thinks that her own stars on earth are scarcely less beautiful.

Summer has brought before our eye a beautiful village beside a river, on the banks of which a long row of tall elms stand ever looking at their shadows in the ripples below. Beyond rises a range of hills, round the base of which the river sweeps like a belt of silver; far away a wood, rises in the distance—its trees are "musical with bees." On the opposite bank we hear the lowing of oxen and the jingle of sheep-bells, and these sounds blend with the lapping made by the water below the willows. At a bend of the current an angler takes his patient stand in a dark picturesque dress; his figure rests upon a grey background, an old stone jetty, from the interstices of which many a green creeper hangs waving in the breeze. A long trail of golden light runs rippling

along the water as far as the eye can reach, and seems at last to unite with a flood of glory that comes streaming from the sky. The swallows skim to and fro, and are ever laving their white breasts in the river. Somewhere out of sight there is a noise of rooks, yet so far off as not to drown the cooling of the ringdove in the neighbouring copse.

That is the world of Nature—the God-created country. We will now glance at Summer Time in London.

Piles of withered pea-pods, and bunches of shrivelled cabbages, are scattered and ranged about the greengrocer's shop; the few flowers he has for sale seem dying for want of water: a shower comes from the passing water-cart, and covers them with dust. There is a smell of stale red-berrings in the streets; the shop-fronts on which the sun shines seem as if on fire; from the open doors of the eating houses you catch a smell of dying dinners, as if a slow decay was taking place amongst the joints, while hundreds of flies buzz about the remains. The cur, that, on other occasions, yelps at your heels, is now too hot to bark. You pity the poor cab-horses, that stand like patient martyrs, burning in the sun, although they seem to prefer being offered up as a slow sacrifice, to being driven steaming through the fiery streets. You believe that what is shown for Wenham Ice in some window is a huge lump of crystallized matter, which they have watered; for anything so cold as ice to be found in such an atmosphere, you think an impossibility. You see little pleasure-parties of boys gathered about the plug-holes, as the only cool places that can be found; and you cannot help thinking what a benefit it would be to the inhabitants



WATERING-PLACES OF ENGLAND.—DOVER: THE TOWN AND HEIGHTS.

THE WATERING-PLACES OF ENGLAND.

DOVER.

OWING to the clearness of the water, and the gradual declivity of the shore, the sea-bathing at Dover is considered to be equal to any in the kingdom. Anciently, Dover is supposed to have derived its name from *Dwysyrha*, signifying a steep place; or it may have taken its name from the river *Dour*, which has its source from two heads, four miles west of the town, and forms the back-water to the harbour, thence discharging itself into the sea. *Dour* appears to have been latinized into *Dubris*, and changed by the Saxons into *Dover*, which is recorded to have been a place of considerable size and opulence in the reign of Edward the Confessor. As a watering-place, Dover is resorted to rather by those who seek the enjoyment and benefit of sea-bathing, together with more retirement and less excitement than attends a residence at Brighton or Margate. The castle is a grand object of interest.

CLIFTON.

CLIFTON, near Bristol, differs from the other watering-places in being far distant from the sea. It is resorted to partly on account of its hot springs, and partly from the extreme picturesqueness and beauty of its scenery. The point of view taken in the accompanying Illustration gives, perhaps, its most striking and distinctive aspect; but in the neighbourhood, among the rocks which overhang the cliffs, and along the shores of the Avon, which flows at their base, there are innumerable beautiful walks. The river is very beautiful at high water; and then a residence in this pleasant place is made more interesting by the constant passing and re-passing of steam-boats and other vessels which ply between Bristol and various ports in the Bristol Channel, in Ireland, &c. At low water the stream degenerates into a gigantic ditch. Clifton is a very delightful place for those who desire retirement, and can take delight in rural and picturesque beauty. There are many excellent hotels; and, as a general rule, the lodging-houses are convenient, and not too expensive.

If the water was allowed to run for an hour or two every day in all the streets of London. What little air you used to find in the City seems to have gone into the country for a change, or to be out for the day somewhere on the river. The drivers of the omnibuses become desperate if they have to pull up out of the little slip of shadow which the high houses throw down on one side of the street. The great lion-heads which belong to the knockers, look more savage and angry than they do in winter, and seem to threaten to bite you when you raise your hand, as they stand in the full glare of the sunshine on the heated doors. You feel as if you were slowly turning to crackling, and when you fall asleep dream of men and streets, and great moving joints of roast pork; for such are your visions of Sweet Summer Time, singing and browning you in London. Happy seem those houses, which on holidays we get a peep at, through the embowering trees, at whose doors the roses and woodbines stand sentinels throughout all the summer nights, dreaming in the silvery moonbeams, or seeming to hang their flowery heads while listening to the song of the nightingale or the low murmur of the adjoining brook. Such places we do at times visit, and return to our city home again, laden with pleasant memories—dreams which strew our pillows with the roses of summer, even while in our sleep we are inhaling the poisonous atmosphere of the adjacent sewer, where gas is ever escaping, and drain-pipes getting choked up, and blacks falling from the chimnies in thousands; for such is our Sweet Summer Time in London.



WATERING-PLACES OF ENGLAND.—CLIFTON, FROM LEIGH WOOD.

The PRELUDE; or, GROWTH of a POET'S MIND. An Autobiographical Poem,
By WILLIAM WORDSWORTH. MORON.

Having returned from his continental tour, and seated himself in his native vale, Wordsworth began to make experiment of his poetical powers, to the development of which he had determined to devote his future life. The workings of his mind under these circumstances he thus states:—

"As becomes a man who would prepare
For such an arduous work, I through myself
Make vigorous inquisition: the report
Is often cheering, for I neither seem
To task that first great gift, the vital soul,
Nor general truths, which are themselves a sort
Of elements and agents, under powers,
Subordinate helpers of the living mind:
Nor am I naked of external things,
Forms, images, nor numerous other aids
Of less regard, though war perhaps with toil
And needful to build up a poet's praise,
Time, place, and manners: do I seek, and these
Are found in plenteous store, but nowhere such
As may be singled out with steady choice."

His own personal experience, as we now know, proved ultimately to be the burden of his song; and every one of his poems is, indeed, entitled to be considered as a portion of his autobiography. Wordsworth's life has been emphatically written in his works. Of what vigour was in him at the period of commencing the present, the following description may serve as an example :—

Wisdom and spirit of the universe,
Thou giv'st that art the eternity of thought,
That rival'st to forms and images a breath
And everlasting motion. Not in vain
By day or starlight thus from my first dawn
Of childhood didn't thou intertwine for me
The passions that build up our human soul;
Not with the mean and vulgar works of man,
But with high objects, with enduring things,
With life and nature, purifying thus
The elements of feeling and of thought,
And sanctifying, by such discipline,
Both pain and fear, until we recognize
A grandeur in the beatings of the heart.
Nor was this fellowship vouchsafed to me
With stinted kindness. In November days,
When vapours rolling down the valley made
A lonely scene more lonesome, among woods,
At noon and 'mid the calm of summer nights,
When, by the margin of the trembling lakes,
Beneath the gloomy hills, homeward I went
In solitude, such intercourse was mine:
Mine was it in the fields both day and night,
And by the waters all the summer long,
And in the frosty season, when the sun
Was set, and, visible for many a mile,
The cottage windows blazed through twilight gloom,
I heeded not their summons: happy time
It was indeed for all of us—*forms*!
It was a time of rapture! Clear and loud
The village clock struck six:—I wheeled about
Proud and exulting, like an untired horse
That cares not for his home. All shod with steel
We blazed along the polish'd ice in games
Confederate, imitation of the chase
And woodland pleasures, the resounding horn
The pack loud chiming, and the hunted hare.
So through the darkness and the cold we flew,
And not a voice was idle: with the din
Smitten, the precipices rang about;
The leafless trees and every icy crag
Tinkled like iron; while far-distant hills
Into the tumult sent an alien sound
Of melancholy not unnoticed, while the stars
Eastward were sparkling clear, and in the west
The orange sky of evening died away.
Not seldom from the uprear I retired
Into a silent bay, or sportively
Glanced sideways, leaving the tumultuous throng
To cut across the reflex of a star
That died, and, flying still before me, gleam'd
Upon the grassy plain; and oftentimes,
When we had given our bodies to the wind,
And all the shadowy banks on either side
Came sweeping through the darkness, spinning still
The rapid line of motion, then at once
I gave I, reclining back upon my heels,
Stopp'd short; yet still the solitary cliffs
Wheel'd by me—even as if the earth had roll'd
With visible motion her diurnal round!
Behind me did they stretch in solemn train,
Feeble and feeble, and I stood and watch'd
Till all was tranquil as a dreamless sleep."

The record of Wordsworth's "childhood and school-time" will be read with pleasure, for the images and ideas in which it is embodied. There are beautiful snatches of poetry—lines teeming with music—and extended descriptions which are pictures in words. Wordsworth lost his parents in early life; but the maternal influence, nevertheless, had operated strongly on his mental development.

"Blest the babe,
 Nursed in his mother's arms, who sinks to sleep
 Rocked on his mother's breast; who with his soul
 Drinks in the feelings of his mother's eye.
 For him, in one dear presence there exists
 A virtue which irradiates and exalts
 Objects through widest intercourse of sense,
 No outward hue, bewilder'd and depress'd;
 Along his infant veins are interfused
 The gravitation and the filial bond
 Of nature that connect him with the world.
 Is there a flower, to which he points with hand
 Too weak to gather it, already love
 Drawn from love's purest earthly fount for him
 Hath beautified that flower; already shades
 Of pity cast from infant's eye
 Do fall around him upon aught that bears
 Unsignificantly marks of violence or harm.
 Emphatically such a being lives,
 Frail creature as he is, helpless as frail,
 An inmate of this active universe;
 For feeling has to him imparted power
 That through the growing faculties of sense
 Doth like an agent of the one great mind
 Create—creator and receiver both,
 Working but in alliance with the works
 That it beholds."

Wordsworth's experiences of Cambridge were not satisfactory. The routine of University studies disgusted him. He was a veritable child of nature, not of the schools, and preferred the open air exercises of the place to its cloistered incursions.

"For I, brood 'p'mid nature's luxuries,
Was as a child, and smiling like the wind,
As I was once among the flowers
With those crystalline waves, when I could climb,
And mountain, and the fowl of the air,
I was all that I could see;
To get my pleasure, and to make my mouth,
Take up a station calmly on the path
Of sedentary peace. Those lovely forms
Had also left less space within my mind,
Which, wrought upon instinctively, had found
A freshness in those objects of her love—
A winning power beyond all other power."

Glad was Wordsworth when the summer vacation came, and he was again restored to his native hills. Glad were the neighbours to receive him once more amongst them. It seems it was only by a very gradual process, that Wordsworth came to appreciate the value of books; that mastered, however, his reverence was extreme.

"A gracious spirit o'er this earth presides,
And o'er the heart of man: invisibly
It comes, to works of unrepined delight,
And tendency benign, directing those
Who care not, know not, think not what they do.
The tales that charm away the wakeful night
In Araby romances; legends penn'd
For solace by dim light of monkish lamps;
Fictions, for ladies of their love devised
By youthful squires; adventure endless, spun
By the dismantled warrior in old age,
Out of the bowels of those very schemes
In which his youth did first extravagant;
Those spread like day, and something in the shape
Of these will live till man shall be no more."

We must give a specimen or two of the poet's continental experiences:—

"When from the Vallais we had turned and clomb
Along the Simplon's steep and rugged road,
Following a band of muleteers, we reach'd
A halting-place, where altogether took
Their noontide meal. Hither rose our guide,
Leaving us at the board; & while we linger'd,
Then paced the beaten downward way that led
Right to a rough stream's edge, and there broke off
The only track now visible was one
That from the torrent's further brink held forth
Conspicuous invitation to ascend.
A lofty mountain. After brief delay
Crossing the unbridged stream, that road we took,
And clomb with exergness, till anxious fears
Intruded, for we failed to overtake
Our comrades gone before. By fortunate chance,
While every moment added doubt to doubt,
A peasant met us, from whose mouth we learned
That to the spot which had perplexed us first
We must descend, and there should find the road,
Which in the stony channel of the stream
Lay a few steps, and then along its banks;
And that our future course, all plain to sight,
Was downwards with the current of that stream.
Loth to believe what we so grieved to hear,
For still we had hopes which pointed to the clouds
We question'd him again, and yet again;
But every word that from the peasant's lips
Came in reply, translated by our feelings,
Ended in this—that we had crossed the Alps."

One Parisian picture, and we have done:—

"Hatred of absolute rule, where will of one
Is law for all, and of that barren pride
In that will, by which the world is ruled,
In that that is the cause of all our ills,
Has been the cause of all our ills,
Long ago, and long ago, with a long
And long, for whom we live, there long will be
For the world's suffering. And when we choose
One day to let a king be our king,
Who, except our king, shall be our king,
Under a king's hand, by a king
To be our king, and to be our king,
Is our king, and to be our king,
Was busy knitting in a heartless me
Of solitude, and at the sight, my friend
In agitation said, 'Tis against that
That we are fighting, I with him believed
That a benign spirit was abroad
Which might not be withstood; that poverty
Abject as this would in a little time
Be found no more, that we should see the earth
Unthwarted in her wish to recompense
The meek, the lowly, patient child of toil,
All institutes for ever blotted out
That legalized exclusion."

Such is this posthumous publication of our greatest modern poet. It is, in all respects, of the most extraordinary character, full of the profoundest interest. It is, in some parts, highly picturesque; in others powerfully eloquent:—everywhere, it bears evidence to its being the work of a master mind.

NOTES FROM NINEVEH, AND TRAVELS IN MESOPOTAMIA, ASSYRIA, AND SYRIA.
By the Rev. J. P. FLETCHER. 2 vols. Henry Colburn, Great Marlborough-
street.

Between the years 1842 and 1844, Mr. Fletcher (at that time, apparently, not the Reverend) resided at and about Mosul, on the Tigris, as the lay associate of a clergyman engaged in a mission of inquiry into the present state of religion and literature amongst the ancient Christian Churches of the East. He proceeded thither by Paris, Marseilles, Malta, Smyrna, Constantinople, Ladik, Arnasia, Tocat, Diarbekir, Mosul. He returned by Diarbekir, Leverek, Urfa, Aleppo, Beyrout, England. Mr. Fletcher does not conceal that he has been induced to "collect" his notes, as if part of them had been published before, by the great interest lately excited respecting Nineveh. At the same time the great discoveries of Mr. Layard, which have excited that interest, have also gratified it in a much higher degree than is in Mr. Fletcher's power, who had left the country before any of those discoveries had been made. Nor does he conceal that the discoveries of M. Layard have much abridged his remarks on antiquities—to the improvement, perhaps, of his production for the general reader.

The "Notes from Nineveh" do not enlarge our knowledge of the antiquarian subjects which just now have directed so much attention to that spot; but Mr. Fletcher's travels in Mesopotamia, Assyria, and Syria, with his account of his residence in Mosul, and his visits to the villages in its neighbourhood, are full of pleasant information narrated in a lively manner. In addition, he tells us much about the Eastern Christians; about the Kurds, and their massacre of the Nestorians. He visited, too, the Yezidees, or so-called Devil-worshippers, who deservedly engaged the attention of Mr. Layard, and both authors, by their descriptions, release them from the reproaches implied in the nickname given them by their opponents. As a picture of manners, we have not for a long time met more agreeable writing than fills a great part of Mr. Fletcher's work. Passing by the little he says of antiquities, his discussions about the site of Mount Ararat, and the early history of the country, and leaving, too, his notices of the Eastern Christians and their theology—which are, however, by no means tiresome or overdone—we must make an extract or two to shew the materials of which the book is made, and by what spirit they are animated. Following a good description of the site and houses of Mosul, the "Modern Nineveh," is this account of

HOUSEKEEPING IN MOSUL.

[illegible]

"I now commenced hot shoeing in the Oriental style, and rarely found my expenses exceed sixty cents per shoe."

The following extract sets forth very distinctly the difference between the slaves of the East who have introduced into the Western World and

SLAVERY IN THE WEST.

"Two hours' ride from Kara Baghech brought us to Kal Mari, a small mound, at the base of which was flowing a small rivulet, around which were grouped the different members of our caravan, that had started from Diarbekir before us. As

different members of our caravan, and I could not help thinking that Oriental notions of liberty are infinitely less than I fully like them our own. The master and his servant sat down together on the same mat, to partake of the plow which the latter had sown, while a black slave, whose master would have been universally shunned in the free and civilized country of America, was here in despotic Turkey treated next to a free white merchant of Mount. The black was indeed a slave, and had always been so; but his master, by blood, but he had been treated by his owner like a member of the family, and was now filling a post similar to that of a confidential clerk. He had been dispatched to Aleppo on a family mission of some delicate nature, by his master's younger brother, over whom for the time being he was to exercise full authority. Our slave-master was well known on a large slave mart, his dress was of good materials, nor did he seem a whit inferior to any one in the caravan.

"A citizen of the American Slave States would be astonished, if not scandalized, to hear that the Farish brothers, be he black or white, possessed frequently greater facilities for moving in the world than those enjoyed by his free neighbour. He may become the friend, the counsellor, and confidant of his master, and sometimes ends by being appointed his heir. The white slaves no

unfrequently obtain their freedom, and a wife from their master's family, though I have never heard that the latter has ever been the case with the blacks. Still the latter enjoy great personal freedom, are treated with kindness, and do not amass property in their state of servitude. The master of the household is not, in things considered, more rigorous to his slave than towards his own sons. The latter are obliged equally to wait upon the family, to perform domestic tasks, and may not, without permission, sit in their father's presence. When they do amiss, their chastisement is rarely lighter than that inflicted on the slave. In short, if we could admit that loss of personal freedom can be compensated by comfort and ease, we might consider the bondman of a wealthy Turkish merchant, or of an opulent Bey, as occupying a station more likely to be productive of happiness than that of the free peasant or labourer, who is robbed of his just gains by the tyrannical exactions of an avaricious Musselmán or a grasping Pasha."

There is one curious subject mentioned by Mr. Fletcher, into which we cannot enter, viz. the propriety of directing a stream of emigration, with the approbation of the Sultan, into his territories from Western Europe; nor could we possibly enter into his feelings of jealousy of the influence which he says France is acquiring in the East, as the great protector of Roman Catholics, and from the increase of the members of the church. The men of the West will require greater security than they can obtain under the Turkish government to colonize Mesopotamia; and the French have succeeded so ill in Algiers, that there is no good reason for other nations fearing their colonizing exertions, to whatever point they may direct them. We must in conclusion add that there are several Eastern tales incorporated with the text, and several stories illustrative of manners which did not fall under Mr. Fletcher's observation, that increase the value more than the bulk of the work. Nor must we forget to mention that the oppression of the Turkish governors is justly reprobated, while its effects in converting the people into robbers, and the country into a wilderness, are clearly pointed out.

NARRATIVE OF SCENES AND EVENTS IN ITALY, from 1847 to 1848; including the Siege of Venice. By LIEUTENANT-GENERAL PEPE. Translated from the Unpublished Italian MS. Two vols. Colburn.

These volumes were needed for justifying the Calabrese insurrection and the cause of Italian independence. The interference of the Calabrese in the cause of liberty dates as early as 1799, when Cardinal Ruffo arrived from Calabria to drive out the French. In 1804 the Carbonaro sect first issued from Calabria. In the "latter days," also, "the Calabrese were the first to shed their blood that the stranger might be driven beyond the Isonzo."

The King of Naples having been compelled to grant a constitution to his people, who had suffered under what Lieutenant-General Pepe calls a Vandal government, the political position, not only of Sicily, but of the whole peninsula, was changed. Thus matters stood on the 29th of January, 1848; but by the 15th of May all was again altered. Our author found that "it is more difficult to uphold a revolution than to make one."

The French revolution of February 1848, in Peto's opinion, was prepared for. Neither Lamartine nor Lamennais foresaw it, even a few days before it happened. The latter said to our author, that "though events were marching rapidly, he could not foresee the final crisis with certainty, that is, whether it would precede or follow the death of the King." To this Peto adds, that "revolutions being prepared by a certain invisible process in the secret depths of men's minds, their execution depends on an instantaneous concord of divers causes, and a spontaneous combination of will and power, the production of which is ever determined by unforeseen circumstances, and escapes all forecast respecting the precise moment in which it will be entered."

However this may be, Lieutenant-General Pepe has here recorded, from sufficient personal experience, the baseness and ferocity of the King of Naples' disposition. Ferdinand II. is seen in these pages in his native colours. Pepe describes him as "that heart which Heaven seemed to have created in a moment of anger with mankind." It is time to give an extract:—

"I said to him, 'Sir, having married an Austrian Princess, it is to be expected that you should be averse to making war against that power,' and he replied, without hesitation, 'You are mistaken; I have always detested Austria.'

"In that case," continued, "I am rejoiced to hear your Majesty's sentiments, and shall propose, with greater confidence, what would be most useful to your Majesty, to the kingdom, and to all Italy. Instead of confiding to me the command of the army, which amounts to 70,000 picked men, let your Majesty in person take the command of them. I will be the head of your staff. The liberation of Italy from a foreign yoke will then be chiefly your act: you will be the idol of all the Italians, especially of the Neapolitans. The Sicilians will return to your allegiance; and if that should not be the case, following the example of my brother in 1820, I will go there myself, and I feel certain of compelling them to return to their allegiance without spilling a drop of blood. With regard to the extension of your territory, you will obtain whatever you may desire."

"I added many other arguments. I counselled generosity, and the evacuation of the citadel of Messina. 'The Sicilians are grateful, Sir; you are not inordinant of the attachment they have ever retained for Florence—for a simple general who, because he did them service, was much annoyed by the Parliament and the Government.' I added, 'You, Sir, who have the military profession so much at heart, who from your earliest years have occupied yourself with the training of your troops, do not let the opportunity escape of gathering the fruits of your labours. You may from the Isonzo, or even from Vienna itself, dictate to Austria the surrender of all the strongholds in which her troops have taken refuge. You will decide the destiny of the Pope, of the King of Sardinia: your glory will live as long as Italy.'"

The Neapolitan massacre of May defeated Pepe's plans. He still, however, had faith in Charles Albert, and resigning the command of the Neapolitan army offered himself to the King of Sardinia as a simple volunteer on his staff. This command, however, he subsequently resumed. Passing the Po with diminished numbers, and discouraged by the fall of Vicenza, Pepe nevertheless took measures for the safety of Venice, at which city he arrived on the 13th of June. "Pepe has always " considered Venice the most important military position to preserve in Italy, since it is from thence that the Austrian empire must be attacked."

Of the massacre of the 15th of May, Pepe gives a full account. The treachery of the Neapolitan Bourbon is placed beyond a doubt. The reason for giving the general the command of the army was to remove him, and place him in circumstances where he might be betrayed. But his energy and patriotism preserved him in the midst of unparalleled difficulties.

In Pepe's estimation, the liberation of Italy depends on the proper government of Sardinia and the Two Sicilies. The King of the former should be a Prince of truly Italian sentiments and of sufficient talent to organize and lead his army. Charles Albert, though brave and gallant, was deficient in the qualities of a captain. The commander wanted skill, the troops organization. The battle of Custoza was lost, not from want of valour, but from want of leadership. The great evil of all was, that military promotion was conferred by favour, not won by merit.

The following extract betrays a curious feeling in Pepe:—

"When an honest man is calumniated, and is aware of the calumny, he has often the appearance of being guilty. As to myself, I confess that I had so often seen the valour of the Italians called in question in newspapers and pamphlets in spite of the well-deserved praise they had earned in all the provinces of the Peninsula, as well as in the wars of the French empire, that I always abstained from going to the Italian theatre in Paris, where all the applause showered on the performers seemed to me to mean, 'You can always sing, but never fight.' But, after the day of Mestre, I went to the finest theatre in Venice, where if I mistake not, a performance was given for the benefit of the Treasury, and in one of the scenes nearly thirty young ladies sang in chorus. I said to myself, 'If in Italy we are superior in all the fine arts, after Mestre, we are ourselves at least convinced that we can fight with more valour than our enemies.' This idea and this train of reasoning made me, for the first time since many long years, take pleasure in an Italian theatre, and seeing my countrymen sing and dance."

The errors of Charles Albert's second campaign were greater than those of his first. But, notwithstanding all reverses, Pepe is convinced, from the insurrection of Brescia alone, that the nation is ripe for definitive emancipation. This nocturnal battle, he says, "was almost like a festival long desired and promised, so great was the popular fury and faith in their country's deliverance." The whole description of the siege is wonderfully exciting—but too long for quotation. The atrocities committed by the Imperialists were horrible. In a great measure, we concur in the hope and sentiment of General Pepe. The existence of his own book is of itself sufficient to inspire the liberal mind with faith in the ultimate success of the Italian cause.

The ILLUSTRATED BOOK of SONGS for CHILDREN. Orr and Co.

The majority of these songs have been translated from the German; the subjects are sweet and homely, now revealing in the dulcet notes of "the minstrelsy of the woods," carefree with the hawk, or soaring with the eagle, and then descending to scenes of every day domestic life, all simple and touching in their aspirations, and such as must impress the tender mind with the beauty of truth, and win the little learner to its holy influences. The book is illustrated with a set of charming vignettes, head and tail-pieces, and letters, by Birket Foster: they are full of picturesque reality and artistic delicacy, in landscape and figure, and the little incidents that render the impressions of childhood so truly delightful. The work is exquisitely printed upon tinted paper.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Sin.—In a late Number several inaccuracies occur in a short paragraph respecting the consecration of St. Thomas's Church, Bethnal-green, which I take the liberty of correcting. First, the Church was commenced in February, 1849, not 1839; the incumbent's name is Kerry, not Kerr. There was no choral service on the occasion, consequently the gentlemen of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's could not have been invited. The choir consisted of twenty boys, Mr. C. H. Carr being organist, as in No. 60, p. 17. The choir was conducted by Mr. Carr, but he had no voice, so that the music was entirely vocal. The choir sang at Sunday evening services, but were particularly distinguished by the Rev. Wm. L. Newman, Organist of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, who, after having given a very interesting account of the various institutions in the Temple, proceeded to sing, "The Lord is my Strength," &c., &c., in the most admirable manner. He sang the whole of the Service, including the Creed, the Gospel, the Epistle, the Collect, and the Agnus Dei, "Gloria in excelsis Deo," "Nunc Dimittes," and Johann Sebastian Bach's "Praise the Lord, O J. J. Fuschel." A very similar sermon was preached by Mr. Roberts, of Limehouse. Trusting you will excuse the liberty I have taken.

J. MELLOR, vicar of the said Church.

BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

BY THOMAS ROWLANDSON.

AGRICULTURE has ever formed an important subject of study and enquiry with the most distinguished statesmen of ancient and modern times.

At no period in the history of Great Britain has the necessity of a thorough knowledge of this important science been felt so intensely by all classes, as at the present moment. An earnest desire to assist in promoting the development of our agricultural resources pervades society from the Prince to the Peasant. That this is not a figurative but a literal truism, is evidence in the interest displayed by H.R.H. Prince Albert in all that relates to the cultivation of the soil, the breeding and rearing improved stock, and the interesting experimental researches of H.R.H. with respect to the economical of town sewage to agricultural purposes, which is now worse than wasted, being the fertile source of disease and death. These are circumstances which with propriety will elevate the character of H.R.H. above that of conquerors, who have been the destroyers of so large a part of the world's happiness, but who have not unfortunately been able to obtain such a creditable portion of its applause. It is hoped similar tastes and virtues will be passed through a posterity whose consecutive reigns will only be remarkable as leaving a great people to his successor in a higher state of happiness and prosperity than that in which he found it. Amongst the noblest and wealthiest of our nobility similar tastes pervade: as illustration of which we may mention the benevolent design of the Duke of Bedford to erect on his various estates 300 improved cottages for labourers; and not less remarkable the circumstance of the Marquis of Westminster, perhaps the richest nobleman in the world, unbending so far as to take an interest in the aesthetics of a drainer's dress, in order that the comfort and convenience of his labourers employed in the occupation of draining may be fully provided for.

Having noticed the above special instances of the interest felt on this subject by members of the highest class of the community, it must not be supposed that we are unmindful of the services of the numerous body of nobility and gentry composing the Royal Agricultural, Highland, and other societies, whose services of late years have been so instrumental in rapidly promoting the onward movement of British Agriculture.

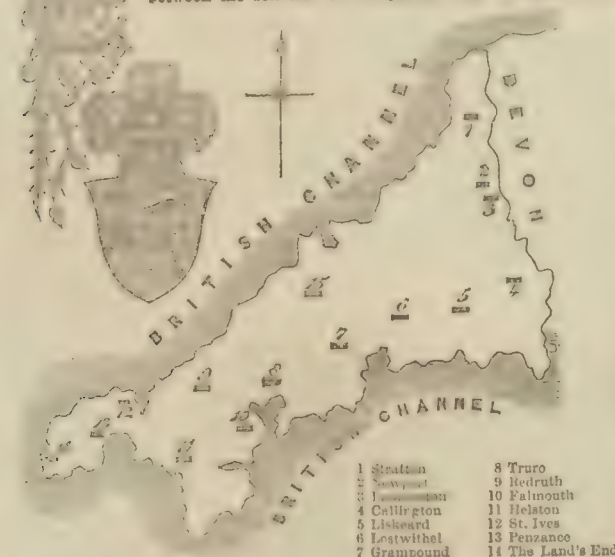
To all classes of this and every civilised community, an object embracing the sustenance, clothing, and comfort of millions must ever be interesting, and to none more so than to the humblest day labourer; for on the sufficient or insufficient production of food, depends the circumstance whether he is exposed to the dangers of famine or is amply supplied with nutriment.

Seeing the general utility and interest of the topic, it is intended to give a series of papers on British Agriculture. For this purpose the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS possesses advantages over its contemporaries in consequence of its pictorial character, which affords opportunities of illustrating any remarkable physical structure or circumstance by artistic embellishment, which frequently gives the reader a better conception of the idea to be conveyed than pages of written description. In order to render these papers of the greatest practical utility, as occasions occur modes will be pointed out of fertilizing the soil by the aid of materials now neglected but existing, and within the reach of any particular district; defects will be pointed out and useful local practices noticed, with the view of promoting the adoption of the latter in other districts wherever such may be deemed suitable. In pursuing this course we shall be rendering a greater service to the agricultural community, than that adopted by the various "commissioners" sent out by our daily contemporaries, whose reports have hitherto been little more interesting than as ordinary topographical descriptions of the country they passed through, being devoid of anything suggestive of improvement, or calculated to assist the farmer in surmounting the present difficulty of low prices.

In localities where scenic beauties prevail they will not be unnoticed, so that the series may be useful and interesting to the tourist, whether on the picturesque banks of the Wye and Shannon, the silvery Exe, or the sylvan and placid beauties of Windermere. We commence with

CORNWALL.

CORNWALL presents a remarkable coincidence of certain soils with the rocks on which they are superimposed. In no part of the British Empire can the study of the relations between the soil and the subjacent rocks be made with



greater facility than in the West of England, and nowhere can the information which such an enquiry affords be turned to a more practical account than in the district under notice. This remark equally applies whether it respects the improvement of lands already under cultivation, the reclamation of wastes, or as tending to the general advancement of agricultural science. As we advance from a primitive to a newer and frequently alluvial formation, the relations between the subjacent rocks and the cultivated soil become gradually less distinct and apparent, and frequently lost in the complication of the soil itself, which is not unfrequently formed of particles derived from nearly all the known rocks. A patient investigation, therefore, of the soils of a primitive country enables us the better to study those districts whose soils may have had a more complex origin.

The soils of the county of Cornwall are principally derived from four distinct species of rocks—granite, mica, hornblende, and serpentine; a fifth may be added, viz., the carbonaceous slates; the last, however, was originally found in the disintegration of the first. The general character of any district is occasionally modified by erupted plutonic rocks, as granite, porphyry, &c., and, occasionally, up-turned beds of limestone. The soil to which the disintegration of granite gives rise, is provisionally termed "granite soil;" it occupies a very extensive area. There are four considerable basins of granite in Cornwall, besides a few minor outcrops, exclusive of the granite found in the Scilly Islands. Commencing the enumeration of the granite soils near the borders of Devonshire, we find the Redruth district occupying a surface of 10 miles in length, by 6 or 7 in breadth, being the largest area of any single granite district. Proceeding westward, and at a short distance, we arrive at the Helston district, occupying not much more than one-third the superficial extent of the former; at some distance from Helston, a third district of granite is found of like character, in the neighbourhood of Penryn, Helston, Redruth, and Camelford. The last basin of granite of any considerable extent includes the Land's End district, extending from Mouse Bay to St. Ives. The granite districts of Cornwall occupy an area of probably something more than 200,000 acres; a considerable moiety in a county containing 3,000 acres. A very large part of 200,000 acres of waste lands, estimated as being found in Cornwall, exists on granite districts, the soil principally consisting of peat, oftentimes mixed with sharp quartz sand.

The great differences in the qualities of the "granite" soils arise from two circumstances, viz. their relative positions as regards altitude, and the composition of the subjacent granite. The former is well illustrated by comparing the Redruth and Helston districts with that of the Land's End, the former being 1296 and 1368 feet above the level of the sea, whilst the latter rarely exceeds 300 feet. In considering the causes of these distinctions, we must refer some, in a great measure, to differences of climate, elevation being proportionally equivalent to increased distance from the equator. As we ascend a mountain, the temperature falls: in England, it is customary to calculate the fall at one degree of the thermometer for every 300 feet of elevation. The difference of mean annual temperature will not alone account for the marked fertility of one district as compared with the sterility of another of similar geological position.

Theory would point out what observation has ascertained—that up to a certain height the annual rainfall increases according to the elevation above the level of the sea: the importance of this fact, in reference to the distribution of soils, will immediately be seen.

It is an axiom that all soils (carbonaceous ones, such as peat, excepted) are formed from the decomposition of rocks; and so far as the researches of science have yet gone, it may pretty safely be asserted that all rocks, particularly the sedimentary ones, have been derived from the decomposition of granite. This assertion will not doubt surprise many, who are apt to conceive that granite is an indestructible material, in consequence of its being selected as the most durable stone for forming our most permanent public works and buildings. Granite is, however, susceptible of decomposition in various degrees according to its mineralogical structure; some of the Cornish are easily disintegrated, such as that of the Cornish which porcelain clay is obtained; whilst others, to ordinary observers, are apparently indestructible, for instance, that of which Waterloo-bridge is built; yet, on examining this structure, it will be seen that an incipient decomposition has commenced, more particularly to be seen in the parts subjected to alternate tidal and atmospheric influences. This is made manifest to the eye of the most

casual observer by the brown appearance assumed by the stone in those parts of the bridge alluded to, owing to the gradual absorption of oxygen by the iron in the granite; however indestructible the firmest granite may appear to an ordinary observer, even when found, as is often the case, refractory when treated with the most powerful chemical fluids, observation of what takes place in nature and experiment in the laboratory have proved that it eventually decomposes under the slow and continued action of those universal solvents, moisture and carbonic acid. From the increased amount of rain on elevated granitic districts, the decomposition of the rock takes place more rapidly, as compared with others of less altitude. High districts are usually steep, which, combined with the circumstance of heavy rains, the water which falls thereon is commonly carried off in a very rapid manner, by which means the finer and generally more fertile portions of the disintegrated rock are conveyed to lower situations, leaving behind a sterile quartz soil sometimes mixed with the aluminous material of the granite, in either case frequently overgrown or intermixed with peat.

In addition to the above causes, great variations in the fertility of granitic soils occur, owing to the varied composition of the rock which obtains that generic term. Granite is composed of three principal substances—quartz (flint or sand), mica, and felspar in various proportions. When quartz prevails, the soil is inferior. The other two ingredients, mica and felspar, have also a varied composition, the magnesian or uniaxial mica, forming a better soil than the ordinary mica; the soda felspar (albite), when decomposed, forms the Cornish porcelain clay, a very infertile stiff soil; whilst the potash, or red and flesh-coloured felspars, as they are frequently termed, form the richest soils. The quantity of iron present has a considerable effect not only on the character of the soil, but also on the facile decomposition of the rock, forming a richer soil and more easily decomposed rock as that metal prevails.

Upon investigating the more fertile parts of Cornwall, it will be found that in proportion as the soil has been formed from rocks containing considerable quantities of potash felspar, is the quality of the soil improved—in such places the quantity of the felspar in the granite being found as high as 70 to 90 per cent., frequently accompanied by a considerable portion of oxide of iron, which contributes to its more facile decomposition. It is this circumstance which explains the unusual fertility of the "granite" soils in the parishes of St. Burian, Sennen, and St. Leven, which are always let at very high rents. It may be almost invariably remarked throughout Cornwall, that the richest soils are found at the junction of different formations, and are locally spoken of as veins of rich land. In the neighbourhood of Mount's Bay and the vicinity of Penzance a great number of such circumstances combine to render this locality peculiarly fertile, for contiguous thereto is found a rich decomposing potash felspathic granite at the junction of the decomposing slate, intermixed with erupted greenstone and felspathic porphyry, the intermixture of which has formed probably the most fertile soil in England; as an example of which it is related by Mr. Karkeek, "that here there is occasionally produced what cannot be realised in any other district in England—two crops of potatoes in one year; one acre yielding three hundred bushels (imperial) of early spring potatoes planted in November, and dug up in May and June, a portion of which obtain 20s. per bushel in the London market, and after this a crop of late potatoes planted in June yielding 400 bushels per acre. The usual method being to obtain a crop of early spring potatoes, after which a crop of turnips." It is related by Dr. Paris that at the time he wrote (1817), 1000 acres in the vicinity of Penzance yielded an annual rental of £10,000.

The serpentine district is a not very extensive piece of flat table-land in the vicinity of the Lizard, composed principally of magnesian silica; is exceedingly retentive of moisture and very sterile. It is very remarkable as producing a beautiful heath, the *Erica vagans*, of which it is said not a single specimen can be found out of the bounds of this formation, but is again found in the vicinity of Liskeard, where the serpentine again crops out, which further betrays itself by the deterioration of the soil in its immediate vicinity. It occasionally happens that veins of diatase and hornblende run through the serpentine, in which case the intermixture adds considerably to the fertility.

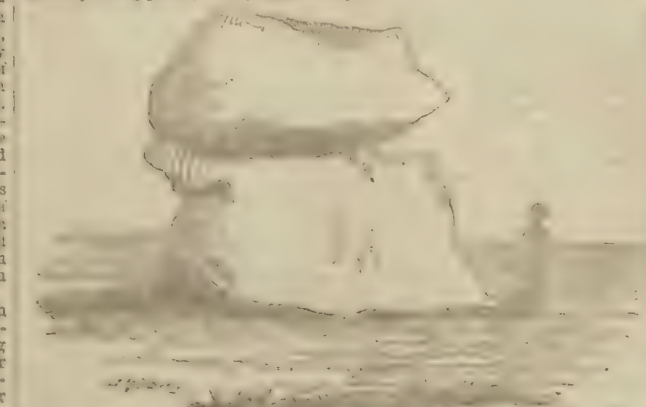
The soil on the Hornblende rocks which adjoin the serpentine forms a great contrast with the latter, being finely undulating, forming a remarkable contrast with the flat monotonous aspect of the serpentine. The farmers designate it as "marle soil," in consequence of their using this rock as a manure when decomposed, in which state it is found to a considerable depth.

The slate formation, provincially called "Killas," occupies the greatest superficial extent of any particular geological formation in Cornwall: that part near Penzance is very fertile. Where most elevated, it generally consists of barren moors; and from Hayle to Perranzabuloe, a considerable extent is "waste;" a large portion of the district just named is, however, occupied with mining. The mines are to a considerable extent connected with the presence of erupted dykes of porphyry, the decomposition of which frequently forms a very fertile soil when mixed with decomposed slate. In the mining districts, an extensive breadth of land is occupied in small holdings by working miners and cottagers, a great portion of which has been reclaimed from the "waste" by these industrious individuals.

From Poldow to the commencement of the carbonaceous rocks, numerous bands of greenstone have been erupted amongst the slates, accompanied in several instances by beds of volcanic ash, containing a considerable amount of calcareous matter, and known, according to its appearance in this and the adjoining county, under the names of dunstone and honeycomb dun. Of a like character is the slate district extending from St. George's Channel, along the banks of the Tamar, to Callington. From this town to the British Channel, and extending to Liskeard and the Looe, the soil is generally light, free, and loamy, resting on red, grey, and variegated slates, occasionally mixed with greenstones and the volcanic ash already named. Where this juncture of igneous and argillaceous rocks and volcanic ash is found, the soil is always more fertile, and obtains a higher rent. A similar remark applies to the soils on the carbonaceous rocks in Cornwall. The soils in this series are far from good, though occasionally fertile spots are found, as at Launceston, where some erupted trapezoidal rocks exist: a large part are, however, dreary and barren, consisting of a poor, yellow clay, which is a general product of the decomposed slates which are found north and west of Launceston.

The Cornish toast, "Fish, Tin, and Copper," indicates that the inhabitants of this county are in the practice of looking for wealth to those sources in preference to agriculture. An enterprising people, like the inhabitants of Cornwall, are not likely to overlook any advantage calculated to be beneficial which may be pointed out to them. Amongst these we may mention the rendering soluble the potash in their felspathic granites, and using the sulphur of their ores, now burned to waste at Swansea. Nothing can be more absurd than the fact of Cornish farmers buying super-phosphate of lime in London, formed by the aid of sulphur obtained from Sicily, when they have such a superabundance of that material in their copper ores and muds. Coprolites, from the east coast, and bones, can be imported at a less expense than manufactured "super-phosphate;" and no people in the world are more practised hands at the preliminary crushing department. In the two subjects here pointed out, the farmers of Cornwall and the adjoining county have almost an unlimited source of manure to fertilize their exhausted fields.

The Cornish mines are, perhaps, the most perfect and extensive in Europe, and form an instructive subject to parties interested in mineralogy. Amongst other matters seen in Cornwall may be mentioned the Logan, or Rocking-stones, and numerous Druidical remains. The former have long puzzled antiquarians how a rude people could lift and adjust such huge masses of rock as some of the Logan stones: at the present day, they only afford proofs of the extensive decomposition and frequent denudation of certain rocks, the hard parts only being left. As an illustration, a representation of the Giant's Punch-bowl in St. Agnes, one of the Scilly Islands, is given. An inspection of the drawing will show that "the punch-bowl" could easily be converted into a rocking-stone, by merely chiselling away the edges of the lower stone, thus rendering any, let alone an extraordinary lifting power, wholly unnecessary.



THE "GIANT'S PUNCH-BOWL," IN ST. AGNES.

Commerce existed in Cornwall, probably, prior to any other district in Europe, the Phoenicians having visited it for its tin. Strabo mentions the Cassiterides (Scilly Isles); whilst many antiquarians contend, and much learned research has been expended in proving, that St. Michael's Mount is the "Ictis" of Diodorus Siculus. Leaving this nut for the antiquarians to crack, we must, for the present, take leave of the subject.

RURAL AND SEA-SIDE FASHIONS.

Town fashions no longer occupy the attention of *modistes*, who are exclusively engaged with the new costumes for rural fides and for watering-places. For the country, toilets, although less costly in appearance, are certainly more tasteful than those of town. Morning gowns of organdie, plaited like a blouse round the neck, with scalloped trimmings all round, opening upon a cambric slip, embroidered with large flowers, drawn in to the waist with a wide sarsenet ribbon, also scalloped, are elegant *negligés* for breakfast. Loose polkas of 3/4 organdie, or muslin, trimmed with flounces of the same, surmounted by a narrow trimming of Malines lace, add to the simplicity of this

* It must not, however, be understood that this takes place at all junctions, for in some parts of the slate districts the junctions are very infertile.
† Probably Cornish acres; six statute acres being equal to only five Cornish acres.

toilet. Muslins have entirely replaced the barèges so much in demand last month. The skirts of these light dresses are made very wide: some are ornamented with tucks, but the most part are trimmed with flounces *à la gauffrée*. Open bodies are gathered in the middle, forming a sheaf upon the shoulders. The taste for ribbons has entirely returned, and is shown by wide sashes being indispensable in every costume for the country. Braided nankeen dresses, made quite plain, and opening in front; iron-grey silks, also braided, with a polka of the same, make pretty walking dresses: and wide riding skirts are made in fine Cashmere, upon which are fitted canezons of plaited cambric, these light riding habits being infinitely more becoming to young girls than the heavy skirts of cloth. Instead of the natural weight of the cloth, which makes them fall, is put at the bottom of the Cashmere skirts a hoop of Spanish lead, or small shot flattened, like the Andalusian skirts. Round grey hats have replaced black ones. The finest linen is worn in small collars and cuffs. Jewels are now laid aside for natural flowers: these, gathered in all their freshness, form the only ornaments to the double skirts of zephyr gauze. Natural flowers, to last through the heat of dancing, are thus prepared:—Separate each flower from the stalk, for which substitute the finest wire, passed through the heart of the flower, after having secured the sap in the stalk with a little sealing-wax: the flowers once thus prepared, may be grouped into bouquets, garlands, and bunches, adding to them branches of green leaves. Nothing is more becoming than these head-dresses, renewed every day. Large round broad-brimmed Pamela straw-hats, trimmed with long floating ribbons, are the most convenient for shade from the sun, at the sea-side; and although they have been generally adopted this year by very little girls for walking in the park, they are also worn by ladies and young girls, to whom, however, they are very becoming. The most dressy bonnets are made of white tarlatan, and trimmed with a bunch of field flowers or summer fruits. Stuff boots are very much worn, particularly of grey "couste;" they are indispensable for country costume. Cloaks are worn almost always the same as the dresses; but there is no great novelty in this article. For afternoon dress, polkas of black or white lace are worn; and large China crape shawls are *commes il faut* to wrap oneself up, in case of the air being chill.

AN ARCTIC NEWSPAPER.

TWO officers on board her Majesty's ship *Assistance*, employed on the expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, have beguiled the tedium of their voyage by the publication of a manuscript Newspaper, the first Number of which has been obligingly forwarded to our office by a Correspondent. It is entitled *The Aurora Borealis*, and issued from Baffin's Bay. The heading is a view in the Arctic Seas, with icebergs in the foreground, and ships in the offing; the *Aurora* being personified by a half-length figure, beneath which is the motto, "Spes semper lucens." We are aware that this intellectual pastime is not altogether unprecedented, as the *North Georgia Gazette*, and similar publications in previous voyages to the North, attest.

In the opening address of the *Aurora*, the editor states—"The journal we have undertaken has been for the amusement of the officers and ship's company of her Majesty's ship *Assistance*, during the dark and dreary hours, when—

'Mingling, day and night
(Sweet interchange which makes our labours light)
Will be unknown!'

and our sacred mission will not demand our services. It will amuse and instruct, and we hope it will be a bond to unite and keep up a spirit which will, we trust, reign triumphant throughout, and cause our ship, in after years, to be fondly and dearly remembered by the name of the 'Happy and Jolly *Assistance*.'"

We quote three specimens of this Arctic Journalism:—

ACROSTIC.

S ince other efforts have been vain
I ce-barriers to evade;
R esolved—no danger shall restrain

J eint search for Franklin's aid.

F or Franklin's sake we'll brave the fates,
R elease his ships and crew;
A nd bring him home through Behring's Straits—
N o other way will do!
K ind friends our safe return will hail,
L ong absent from their care;
I n joy we'll spread our homeward sail,
N ew destinies to dare.

HONORIFICABILITUDINITAS.

TRANSLATION FROM "LES RAYONS ET LES OMBRES." (VICTOR HUGO.)
NIGHTS OF JUNE.

From hidden flowers, when the summer's day has fled
The plain, inebriating perfumes sweep;
Eyes closed, ears to the various murmurs wed,
One's slumber is but a transparent sleep.
Purer the stars, much sweeter shades appear,
A dizzy half-day paints the eternal dome;
Watching her hour, Morning, pale and clear,
Seems all the night beneath the skies to roam.—E.D.

ACROSTIC.—(INTREPID—ASSISTANCE.)

I n the gloomy despair of a long Arctic night,
N ear the haunts where Polar bears roam,
T he heroes whom England had lost to her sight
R epine for their country and home.
E very hope that had tended their sorrows to mend
P ass like dreams with the long year away:
I s their sorrow, their hope, and their life thus to end?
D oes not England their worst fears allay?

A y! Assistance does come with speedy relief
S oon their sorrows and fears to dispel;
S ad, but few, are the days they will sojourn in grief,
I n dependency nothing can quell.
S uch are our hopes for the best:
T he Assistance for friendship and mercy has sailed,
A ll on board her being bent on success,
N o obstacles daunting, all dangers assailed,
G asting comfort aside to succour distress,
L very eye being turned to the west.

To the Editor of the "Aurora Borealis."

SIR,—Having heard from an Arctic voyager that he has seen crows' nests in these icy regions, I beg to inquire through your columns if they are built by the crow (*Corvus tintinnabulus*) which Gossair states "to utter a metallic bell-like croak." My fast friend begs me to inquire when rook-shooting commences in these diggings?

A NATURALIST.

[We would recommend "A Naturalist" to visit these crows' nests, which is practicable, and which do exist in the Arctic regions. We would also advise his fast friend to investigate these said nests more thoroughly; he would find them tenanted by very old birds (ice quartermasters), who would not only inform him as to the species of crows and the sporting season, but would give them a fair chance of showing him how a pigeon may be plucked.—EDITH.]

"SNIGGLING" FOR EELS IN THE RIVER LEA.

What's in a name?—SHAKESPEARE.

A GREAT deal. Is there not something infinitely more Arcadian in "Chloris and Amynton" than in "Rob and Joan?" and does not "Richard Cœur de Lion" give the world far better assurance of a noble knight than "Frosty-faced Fogo?"

Now call to mind the semi-snaky creatures that furnish our *dramatis personæ*—pseudo-serpents. You could not "troll" them, nor "angle," nor "dip," nor "bottom fish;" "eel-spearing" has a bombastic sound, and "bobbing" is low. "Sniggle" is the word—to the matter here. Its origin is obscure. Dr. Samuel Johnson merely describes it as a verb noster: not a syllable about a worm at one end, and a tool at the other. This quaint old cruel coxcomb "held it not unworthy his muse;" and "thus," according to gentle Izaak, "sniggle is performed. In a warm day, when the water is lowest—(you will observe this is about the height of the season)—take a strong small hook, tied to a string about a yard long; and then into one of the holes where an eel may hide herself, with the help of a short stick, put in your bait leisurely, and as far as you may conveniently: if within the sight of it, the eel will bite instantly, and as certainly gorge it: pull him out by degrees." Drummel said—or some one said it for him—"Anything is fun in the country." It is, therefore, legitimate to take your slimy pleasure in the River Lea. Let us begin at the beginning.

From the days of Aristotle down to the publication of Mr. Yarrell's work on fishes, naturalists have been at loggerheads as to the origin of the eel. Some contend that it came into the world after the fashion of the finny tribe generally, while others insisted that it bred as some worms are said to do, between mud and the sun's rays: this said it was oviparous; that rejoined it was viviparous. Yarrell has solved the enigma: eels are oviparous, having melt and roe like other fishes. According to Mr. Jesse, moreover, your eel is quite a character; you might as well attempt to dam Niagara with an *omelette soufflée* as to turn him from the way it is his desire to go.

"So strong is their migratory disposition, that it is well known few things will prevent their progress: even at the locks at Teddington and Hampton the young eels have been seen to ascend the large posts of the flood-gates, in order to make their way when the gates have been shut longer than usual. Those which die stick to the posts; others, which get a little higher, meet with the same fate, until at last a sufficient layer of them is formed to enable the rest to overcome the difficulty of the passage. A curious instance of the means which young eels will have recourse to, in order to perform their migrations, is annually proved in the neighbourhood of Bristol. Near the city there is a large pond, immediately adjoining which there is a stream. On the bank between these two waters, a large tree grows, the branches of which hang into the pond. By means of these branches the young eels ascend into the tree, and thence let themselves drop into the stream below; thus migrating to far distant waters, where they increase in size, and become useful and beneficial to man. A friend of mine, who was a casual witness of this circumstance, informed



MANDRILL BABOON IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, REGENT'S PARK.

me that the tree appeared to be quite alive with these little animals. The rapid and unsteady motion of the boughs did not appear to impede their progress."

If you are now prepared to "sniggle," come forth, and take counsel by the way. Unlike other fish, the eel always swims with the current, and never against it. It is peculiarly sensitive of temperature, and, during the cold periods of the year, societies of this species bury themselves in the soft earth and mud, and pass their time in a torpid state, without food of any kind, as swallows have been observed to do. From June to September will be found the best season for the sport under consideration. Your locality shall be the lucid Lea,

anywhere between Ware and Blackwall. Select a site similar to that chosen by the artist whose characteristic sketch embellishes this notice. Your business, bear in mind, craves wary handling—a bungler will make no "sniggle." True, you may see ragged boys, with crooked pins for hooks, and anything at all for rods and lines, circumventing the wriggling quarry; but pursue it with appropriate tackle—essay it with fair machinery, and your labour shall reward your pains.

Let your rod be two feet and a half long, and made of stiff bamboo. To this let there be a flexible top affixed—such as will remain at any segment or curve

that may be required. Half a yard of stout bell-wire is the best material you can use, as it can be bent or unbent according to present necessity. The dandy "Sniggle" turned out by a metropolitan fishing-tackle maker is accoutred with subtleties in hickory and the like—but these are only vanities. They are piscatory puppies, as well as *boudoir beaux*, like Lord *Bouquet-du-Paradis*. The rod may be constructed with two telescopic joints, with room for the wire-top. The line should be of hair, stoutly platted. This must not be fastened to the rod, but held in the hand, wound round the common thumb-winder. To the loose end of the line attach a strong hook, say No. 5 or 6. That, however, which the high amateur greatly prefers is a button-needle, such as gloves or tailors use, with the point broken off, and whipped silk (silk waxed with shoe-maker's wax), laying the end of the line about half-way down the needle, to within a quarter of an inch of the eye. The line will then hang from nearly the centre of the needle, the finer portion of it uncovered, and also a quarter of an inch of the thicker end. The bait should be a worm, the needle being first passed into the thick part near the tail, and then drawn so as to completely cover the needle. Now survey your station for crevices, holes under stones, and similar places, likely to harbour the prey you seek. Having fixed on these, place the tail end of the worm upon the wire end of your rod, near to the tip, and then insert the head of the bait just inside the mouth of the opening, whatever it may be, taking the precaution to unwind so much of the line as will allow of this being done with facility. If there be an eel within, and disposed to bite, you will have but a short time to wait. Presently a gentle pull will be felt: don't be in a hurry; give your fish time to gorge his hook—a minute or two will suffice; then strike smartly, and the needle will become fixed athwart the eel's throat. Now show your dainty skill. Pull with resolution, but also with discretion. Be mindful of the strain on your line, and also that the hold on the fish may give way if too roughly tried. Hold on till the captive begins to relax his strain; then draw him scientifically, as you would a doubtful cork from a flask of pet Burgundy, and lo! he is landed.

Such are the rudiments of Sniggle. To become a proficient in the art, you will need experience, joined to local knowledge. Should your passion for the pastime induce you to consult some eminent hand touching the refinements of the craft, you may meet with an eminent master in the person of Mr. Salter, whose work upon this recondite science is thus spoken of in the "Encyclopedia of Rural Sports":—"Mr. Salter, with the professional ardour of a true London angler, has entered into an elaborate description of the most approved apparatus for the purpose, which he has done with a minuteness of detail that not only evinces his own proficiency as a 'sniggle,' but shows how much he was interested in making others equally so; and we should be robbing this excellent practical writer of his just due, if we did not own that our figures and description of the apparatus and practice concerned in Eel 'Sniggle' are indebted to him for their principal value."

Progress, which in the days of our fathers looked upon ten miles an hour as quick work, now travels by the electric "telegraph." The disciple of the gentle art, who whilom knew no ambition beyond a mountain trout killed by a fly of his own dedecking, now desires a ton of Swedish salmon for his morning's sport. Nevertheless, even within an hour's reach of deepest Cockayne is many a pleasant wavy river's bank, whereon a summer's day may be loitered away in wholesome recreation. Reader, art thou cognizant of "The Complete Angler"? The author was he who proved that truth did not lie in a well, but in the running waters. Moreover, he was the especial genius of the scene of this our "Sniggle."

Oh I pleasant Master Walton,
The white and sweet Lea river,
That runneth through meads,
And 'twixt flagged roads,
Bubblith of thee for ever.

God rest thee, gentle Isaak—
Thou wert the best of the angle:
All the river fair,
From Lea-bridge to Ware,
Thou didst love to disentangle.

And whoso followeth him throughout his course—rod in hand, and fancy-free—what time the soft air, the song of birds, and the incense of nature bid him abroad, verily, shall not regret his pilgrimage.

MANDRILL, IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, REGENT'S PARK.

This fine specimen of the Mandrill has lately been received from Mr. George Brand, her Majesty's Consul in the province of Angola, in South-Western Africa; and has been disposed of by Mr. Edmund Gabriel, her Majesty's Arbitrator in that province, to the Zoological Society.

This Mandrill is between three and four years old, and is a remarkably fine specimen of the genus to which it belongs.

The Mandrill, which is considered the largest of the Baboons, or short-tailed Apes, is a native of Western Africa; and, although generally docile enough when young, it acquires some ferocity as it grows old. The present specimen measures about five feet, when standing upright; and it is impossible to look at its figure without at once perceiving that it is endowed with great muscular power. It is, we believe, the only specimen of the Mandrill in England; and much credit is due to the gentleman through whose exertions it has been brought to this country.

Mandrills are said to march in large bands, and frequently commit great ravages amongst the fruits and crops; sometimes even plundering the Negro villages, during the absence of the inhabitants.



"SNIGGLING FOR EELS,"—DRAWN BY DUNCAN.



SUMMER RESIDENCE OF THE KAR... FAMILY, IN TAMBOV, 1150 VERSHS FROM ST. PETERSBURGH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

CHAPEL FOR THE CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL,
BROMPTON.

This beautiful edifice was founded by the Rev. Sir Henry Foulis, Bart., who laid the first stone under the east window on August 30, 1849; and was consecrated on the 27th of June last, by the Bishop of London. It is specially intended for the use of the patients of the Hospital, and was erected in memory of a near and dear relative of the founder. On the day of consecration, sermons were preached by the Lords Bishop of Worcester, of Lincoln, and of Oxford, after which very considerable collections were made in aid of the excellent Charity.

We abridge the following architectural details from the *Builder*:—

The Chapel consists of a nave, north and south transeptal projections, and chancel. The interior fittings of the nave are divided into classes, the two first rows of seats eastward being appropriated to the committee of management and officers of the institution. The next seats are for patients in a very weak condition, and requiring the greatest degree of ease; these sittings are therefore separated by arms. The next sittings are still wide, and the backs far apart, but without arms; the last seats, up to the west wall, are of the ordinary dimensions of the open seats in churches, for those patients who may be recovering, and who may shortly leave the institution. The whole of the interior fittings are of oak, some bearing the arms and crest of the founder: these happening to form most appropriate decorations, have been freely used in the interior as well as exterior of the building; they are, heraldically—"Arg. three bay-leaves proper; crest, a crescent arg. surmounted by a cross sa.;" the motto is, "Je ne change qu'en mourant." The crest has been most frequently used on account of its being applicable to the building—"Christianity overcoming Paganism." The floor under the seats is boarded. All the other parts of the nave are paved with ferro-metallic tiles, red and black: in one portion, between the pulpit and reading-desk, the arms, crest, and motto of the founder are laid with Minton's tiles. In the north recess an organ will be placed, the pipes to be within oak-traceried screens on each side of the window. The organ is a present to the chapel.

The chancel has two sedilia of stone of a florid character, the crockets, finials, and other carving, being combinations of the founder's arms. The crockets, &c., of the credence table, are formed of vine leaves and wheat-ears. On each side of the chancel are seats, with traceried fronts. The whole of the chancel is paved with Minton's tiles, in blue, red, and buff patterns. The chancel is separated from the nave by a low traceried screen. The east window is filled with stained glass; the other windows of the chancel contain stained glass.

Adjoining the Chapel is a robing-room and bell-turret, seen in our view of the exterior.

The Chapel is approached, from the Hospital, by a corridor about 85 feet in length, so that the patients may not be exposed to external air in bad weather.

The roof of the Chapel is of deal, open-timber framed, hammer-beam trussed, with diagonal ties, curved struts, arches, and pendants, the spandrels, &c. filled in with tracery. The whole is stained, and is very effective.

Externally, the walls are of Kentish rag, and all the decorative parts are of Caen stone. The roof is covered with old plain tiles, interlaced with ferro-metallic round-end tiles. The low part of the corridor is of red brick, to correspond with the Hospital; and the other part, built to correspond with the Chapel, is lofty and gabled.

The contract for the Chapel was taken by Messrs. Hopkins and Roberts. The accommodation is for about 200 worshippers. The architect of this elegant memorial Chapel is Mr. E. B. Lamb.

which is thus described by Mr. Thornevell, the present occupant of the premises. He says:—"When I arrived here, I discovered, as I thought, a loose stone nearly buried in soil, and I directed its removal: this I then discovered to be impossible as it was built into the wall. My curiosity being excited, I pulled off my coat, got

a spade, and soon dug down by the wall side till I had satisfied myself I had made a discovery. Being aware that an ancient doorway was below the surface and filled up with a rubble wall, I directed the masons to remove the wall, which being done, laid open this beautiful work. I excavated and discovered it was the



CHAPEL OF THE CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL AT BROMPTON.

ANCIENT DOORWAY DISCOVERED AT BURTON-UPON-TRENT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Accompanying is a sketch of an ancient doorway discovered a short time since in making alterations in the Garden of the Abbey, at Burton-on-Trent; the finding of

doorway of a separate chapel. The side abutments showed that it measured 62 feet by 21 feet or thereabout. We found the stained glass broken and scattered on the floor, and the encaustic tiles removed with the exception of broken fragments. I dug to the floor in these places—it was about 4 feet below the surface; and

beneath the floor in one place found a body laid in a coffin of loose stones: the remains were examined previous to careful re-interment, but no coins were discovered, nor did the coffin contain relics of any kind.

There is a record amongst the Abbey papers that the Abbot of Burton, in the



ANCIENT DOORWAY DISCOVERED AT BURTON-UPON-TRENT.



RUINS OF BRAMELEYE HOUSE, SUSSEX; FROM AN ORIGINAL SKETCH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

year 1470, built the Chapel of the Confessors; and as there are no traces of any other separate chapel having existed, we suppose this must have been it; and the more so, as the character of the architecture is of that period.

SUMMER VILLA OF A RUSSIAN NOBLE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Kergashino, Chernazov, July 14.

ACCOUNTANTING is a sketch of the elegant summer residence of the Kara . . . family, situated on their estate in the remote government of Tambov, about 1150 versts from St. Petersburg. It will serve to convey to you, and to our friends in old England, some idea of the abodes in which the Russian nobility pass their lovely but fleeting summer. It is the property of a noble, neither very rich, nor of the highest rank, but one who has served his country in many a tough campaign, and still serves it well, by combating the prejudices of the several thousands over whom his judicious sway extends, endeavouring to render their easy lives more useful, and consequently more easy still. You will perceive how far he has succeeded when I describe to you part of the building (not seen in my drawing), the work of his peasants, whom he has instructed; the same hands digging and preparing the clay, making the bricks, and building them up into wonderful forms; taking the stones from the quarry, and chiselling them into wondrous devices to ornament the stupa: their teacher, architect, and guide being at the same time their friend and master.

Never shall I forget the first *coup d'œil* I enjoyed of this charming place—indeed it seemed akin to enchantment—when, on the fourteenth evening after our departure from St. Petersburg, travel worn, exhausted with the heat, and nearly suffocated with the dust, wondering how and where I should pass another night, whether on an assemblage of chairs or greasy bench, with a travelling cloak for a pillow, or in a litter of straw, or preferable to all in the snug *paravants* at some change-house door, I was suddenly roused from my reverie by such a shout as shipwrecked mariners on a raft might be supposed to utter on beholding the long watched-for sail come at last. A turn in the road we travelled revealed the whole princely fabric at once to our astonished vision. I say "our," for so many magnificent additions had been made to the birthplace of my companions, by their indefatigable father, since their last visit, that they had great difficulty in recognising the "old house at home." "Kargashino! Kargashino! Kak takoye dom!" burst simultaneously from the lips of all, in accents so exultant, that even your half-dead English friend shook off the lethargy of fatigue to join in admiration, for truly it was a most inviting haven of rest to the weary travellers. A few hundred yards further on, and our equipages had gained the gateway conducting to the mansion, having on each side elegant Gothic lodges built of brick, and richly ornamented with quaint devices carved out of a soft white stone; passing through which we pursued our way into a spacious quadrangle, full, sitting in the middle, by a direct line from the gate, we turned to the right, following the course of the drive through flower-beds, shrubs, and columns of creeping plants trained to a great height. This brought us to the front or carriage entrance, situated in the main and original body of the building, being the other side of that given in my sketch. This part of the house is for the exclusive use of the family, differing little in appearance from the other, except that in the quadrangle front a line of conservatories run along the windows of the ladies' apartments, which latter comprise nearly half the building on that side, from the portico to the flag tower on the right: the flag hoisted thereon, shows the mistress of the mansion is at home, while that on the left marks the presence of the Seigneur. Stretching from behind each tower, consequently *en vis-à-vis* to each other, runs a line of G-thing buildings, connected by the towers to the main portion, and thus forming three sides of the quadrangle. These new erections are extremely fine; they are built of brick, of that style called, I think, Saracenic—the prominent buttresses, pinnacles, ramified windows, the profusion of ornaments, as well as its distinguishing characteristics, the small clustering pillars and pointed arches, are, for the most part, composed of the white stone before mentioned. The line on the left comprises the kitchen and its appurtenances, cooks' rooms, Seigneur's clerks' rooms, the apartments of an old nurse, with others for the accommodation of strangers on business, not admitted to the family table. On the opposite side are the apartments of the intendante, the laundry, dye-house, mantle-house, carpet manufactory, lace-workers' room, storerooms, ice-cellars, &c. Continuous to these are two solemn-looking erections, designed as the burial-places of the family. They are distant about thirty feet, but the line of the quadrangle is carried along by an open wall of brick, or, more properly speaking, a railing formed by placing the bricks on end, and covering the same with others laid on flatly, leaving the aperture open. I assure you it has the most novel and pleasing effect. Behind this pretty railing they are now digging the foundation of a new church, belonging to the Seigneurie, to be dedicated to the Apostles Peter and Paul. Adjoining one of the gloomy museums is a perfect *bi-jou d'art*, viz. a fine arch leading out from the quadrangle. It reminds one of the frame of a large window, minus the smaller mullions, stolen from some old church to serve as a model: it is surmounted by an open cross, cut out of the said white stone. At right angles with this, and *en vis-à-vis* to the main building, are the stables; the architecture, though not so elaborate, yet harmonizes well with the rest. These are very spacious, and in their present state capable of accommodating 60 or 70 horses; but it is the intention of the proprietor to add to these, as he has done in his house. Here are several fine race-horses: one of them, called *Syrpandee*, carried off several prizes at the Moscow Races a short time since. There are also six beautiful bays for harness, and dozens of others, chiefly young horses, with which I have not yet become acquainted. Dogs there are, too, innumerable; the favourites being a superb Polish hound and a couple of English spaniels, bearing the classic name of Tull. Like the Samson twins, one is as great a favourite as the other—always together, and exactly alike.

But I am loitering too long where I would fain stay longer; for as yet you have heard nothing of the interior of this summer palace: but, if you will accompany me to the end of the dining-room, just inside the window next the flag-tower to the left, you will have the whole perspective extending through the entire suite of reception-rooms, which, being without doors, the limits of each are marked by white columns, across which curtains may be drawn at pleasure. First, then, is the dining-room, capable of accommodating a goodly number of persons; but when they exceed the usual complement, which is generally the case on Sundays, then dinner is served in the adjoining room—the music or dancing hall, in which is a barrel-organ eight or nine feet high, having a great variety of barrels, which are easily shifted in and out: they are set with every air imaginable, old and new, Russian, German, Italian, and French; for, whenever anything pretty in the shape of music becomes the vogue or strikes the fancy of the Seigneur, the organ-builder at Moscow has the order to transmit it immediately in the substantial form of a new barrel. It is a beautiful thing; sounds all over the house, and is a never-ending source of amusement. Next to this is the English room, a small *boudoir*, with an English fireplace, and some other English contrivances, from which it derives its name: this leads into the great chamber, the guest-chamber, or what we would call a state drawing-room, and is divided by rows of columns into one large and four small saloons, the centre one having a gallery round the ceiling for musicians. From the roofs of each are suspended costly chandeliers, proportioned to the sizes of each. The walls are hung with paintings (some the work of the old masters, others by members of the Seigneur's family) and many fine old coloured engravings: two especially pleased me, being representations of Ascar Race-course and Grand Stand thirty years ago; and in the neighbourhood of these, a famous trotting pony belonging to some horse fancier in England; and race-horses innumerable, bred by the Duke of Portland and the late Lord George Bentinck. Let me assure you that these engravings are the envy of all the horse-racing fraternity in these parts. This guest-chamber, together with all the others, are most tastefully furnished and decorated. One of Erard's harps, and two German-made grand pianofortes, complete the arrangements of a saloon, which, for luxury and refinement, must meet the approbation of the most fastidious. We have strolled to the end of the reception-rooms, and let me here draw your attention to a small, but choice library, containing selections from the best authors, printed in several languages: in this quiet little nook, too, is a little door, leading into the sleeping apartments of the ladies; but, as it is not an English custom for ladies to receive in their bed-rooms, I will hold the door half closed, while I look around, to see if there is anything more worth relating to you. No—nothing—but that engravings of scenes from Chaucer's tales, with descriptive lines in verse, adorn the walls; that the beds are superlative; the rooms lofty and large, and that high from the corner of each the patron saint smiles benignly on his votaries; that the family shrine is well stored with costly offerings, and the ever-burning lamp carefully watched—good signs in these revolutionizing times. That the heat is oppressive, blanching the roses in a day; and being no longer able to keep open my eyes, excuse me following the very agreeable custom of my excellent Russian friends, by withdrawing to indulge in a siesta, whence, in weather like the present, is more necessary to live than food.

RECOLLECTIONS OF BRAMBLETYE.

BY JOHN TIMBS.

Many a time and oft have I stood upon points of the vast range of chalk hills, known as the North and South Downs, and enjoyed for many an hour the long train of associations which the prospect never failed to awaken. The eye, and the mind's eye too, ranges over the *Col-andred*, the mighty wood of the Britons—the *Wyeild*, or *Wald*, the wild forest or chase of the Saxons. Into this wild forest region, the Britons were, doubtless, driven by their early invaders; their forests were their cities—their thick woods, their towns, fortified with ditch and rampart. There are many such tracts to this day darkening the Weald, as any one must remember who has viewed it from the "Devil's Dyke," in Sussex, or from Leith Hill or Antisbury, in Surrey. Upon the verge of such an aboriginal home, invested with the interest of many centuries later, are the few

weaving a few slender scenes from the lives of its possessors with a due preponderance of fiction, and thus directing public attention to the spot. I need scarcely add that the work referred to is the charming historical novel of "Brambletye House," which Horace Smith wrote many years since, while sojourning at a short distance from the scene of ruin; thither he came to receive inspiration from the locality—the secret of clothing thoughts with reality, and swelling a rivulet of truth into a broad river of fiction. Hundreds of pilgrims who delight in nooks and corners of rural quiet, more especially when they have the halo of history about them, resort to Brambletye every summer and autumn. It lies in a delightful valley, between the forest ridge and high ground, within three miles of East Grinstead, to the right of the road leading to Forest Row, at which latter place, if I remember rightly, Horace Smith began his novel.

Brambletye, or, as it is termed in Doomsday Book, Brambertia, after the Conquest, became the property of the Earl of Mortain and Cornwall. Hence we pass, *longo intervallo*, it is true, to its only epoch of celebrity, some two centuries and a quarter since. Towards the middle of the seventeenth century, the property came into the possession of the Comptons, an ancient and distinguished family; and here Sir Henry Compton built himself the solid baronial mansion—Brambletye House. I shall not stop to enquire as to the etymology of the name: whether it be from Bramber, the name of one of the great divisions of the county, which the country people may have naturally corrupted to Bramble, or as old a stock as Bramber—being from the Saxon, *Brembel*.

Over the principal entrance to the mansion are the almost obliterated remains of the coat-armour of Compton, with the arms of Spencer, in a shield, on the dexter side; and on the upper story is sculptured, in stone, C. H. M. 1631. This, says a resident in the neighbourhood, would seem to fix the period when the house was built; and when Sir Henry Compton, who had before inhabited an old moated dwelling in the neighbourhood, abandoned it to take up his residence in this once large and strong baronial mansion. From the court-rolls of the manor, it does not appear who succeeded the Comptons in the possession of the property; but this much is certain, that Sir James Richards, in his patent of baronetcy dated 26th of February, 1633-4, is described as of Brambletye House. Our informant continues:—"A proprietor of this mansion being suspected of treasonable purposes, officers of justice were dispatched to search the premises, when a considerable quantity of arms and military stores were discovered and removed; the owner was out hunting at the time, but receiving intimation of the circumstance, deemed it most prudent to abscond."

Horace Smith tells us that the Comptons, from their courage and loyalty to the Stuarts, were heavy sufferers both in purse and person during the Civil Wars. One of them was put to death at the battle of Hopton Heath, and two others accompanied Charles in his exile. Sir John Compton, a branch of his family, having preserved much of his property from the committee of sequestration, displayed rather more splendour than fell to the lot of most of the Cavaliers who took an equally conspicuous part against the Parliamentary armies. Although never capable of any regular defence, yet Brambletye, being partially fortified, refused the summons of the Parliamentary Colonel, Okey, by whom it was invested and speedily taken. By some subsequent freak of fortune, the mansion became deserted, and it now presents an interesting, though not time-worn ruin. Such is the substance of Horace Smith's preliminary notice of Brambletye; and the reader will, I dare say, remember that after the opening of the work, he is carried elsewhere.

But my recollection of Brambletye is blended with associations of a more pacific character. On the same estate, though doubtless of a more recent date than the mansion, stands a farm-house, and to this property are attached two mills. Thither, when about seven years old, and like another puny plant, I was removed from a London atmosphere. My journey to East Grinstead, the nearest town, in a long-bodied coach, much resembling the omnibuses of the present day; my quarantine in the market-room, while I was handed round to the farmers by my uncle, as "his nephew;" my jolting ride to Brambletye; the smothering caresses of my four maiden cousins; and my astonishment at the bright dogs, blazing logs, and chimney machinery, are matters of trivial interest to the general reader. At that time, Count Romford and his stores were not so well known in the wilds of Sussex, as they are now in the back settlements of North America, and it was some time before I became reconciled to the comforts of chimney corners for the luxury of polished grates; but this reconciliation was mainly brought about by the crackling fagot, which, with its bright flame, lit up every corner of the room and gleamed along its polished tables and benches.

The family at Brambletye consisted of my uncle, a good specimen of the sturdy yeoman; his wife, a portly dame, on the shady side of fifty-eight; three daughters; and a son, then a half-grown youth. Another inmate was a land-surveyor, who was considered as one of the family; and had he only repaid them with his company, they would have been gainers, for he was the life and soul of all our little festivals. To please my vanity, he drew a plan of an estate, to which he attached my name and title, but whether the property was like the Atlantis of the ancients, or whether I forfeited my claim by losing the rent-roll, I am unable to determine; but I know that I never gained possession. He also made a Hozartian sketch of "ringing pigs," in which he introduced my urchin face just peeping above the paling; but he incurred the sore displeasure of the servant girl, by representing her astride one portion of the pig-stye.

Hours and hours have I passed in clambering the tottering staircases of the old mansion. The people in that part call it *Old Place*, and it then contained perfect rooms; whilst the vaults afforded excellent cellarage for home-made wine, potatoes, &c. It originally possessed three towers, with cupola tops, and large copper vases, two of which (from a drawing in my possession) were entire in 1750. The principal entrance was by an arched gate, with immense posterns surmounted with similar cupolas, but the connecting wall between that and the secondary gate was then in ruins. It is, altogether, a rural retreat, being almost embosomed in forest scenery, and, from the lowness of its site, scarcely discernible at a mile distant; but well calculated for the abode of a jocund cavalier—an odd admixture of fox-hunting and politics—just such as the novelist has made him stand out on his page, as the painters of that time have done on their canvas. The old "inverted" house to which he has alluded, stood still deeper in the forest vale. It was furnished with a ponderous drawbridge, and other fortifying resources. I remember we put into its hall one day during a heavy fall of snow, during a surveying excursion, when my curiosity was soon satisfied on being told it was *haunted*—an idea somewhat fostered by the licentious character of its former occupant.

As I became familiarized with the country, the attraction of *Old Place* rather increased than wore off. I delighted to range about its walls, with as much triumph as Okey or Lilburn did in two days of its better fortune. I had already learned to venerate the ruin as a wreck of antiquity, and to speculate on its fall. It still appeared to me a *stupendous* building; and had the rank of its occupant been left to my decision, it certainly could not have been lower than an Earl. I was still at a loss for the history of *Old Place*: the clergyman came from East Grinstead to fish in the mill-stream, and he set me to dig worms for his line; but in return gave me no information, and the surveyor was not a whit more communicative. The outline of the building long remained in my mind's-eye; and the winds whistling through its shattered tower and the paneless casement were in my ears.

In the autumn of 1827, about a score of years from the preceding date, I was induced to re-visit Brambletye; and had I, as the vulgar say, been dropped from the clouds, the town of East Grinstead could not have appeared more strange.

During the interval of my visits, the main road, from which a lane branches off to Brambletye, was entirely re-cut through an immense chalk hill, so as to save a mile in the distance. As I drew near the lane, about half a mile from the town, a few faint shadowy traces began to gleam across my recollection; I fancied I knew the forms of a few small cottages on the crest of the hill; but the first glimpse of a wind-mill, the shafts of which once struck terror into me—first satisfied me of the identity of the neighbourhood; and looking down from the very summit of the hill, I saw the grey cupola of Brambletye in the solitary stillness of desolation and decay. I hurried on with all that blissful ecstasy which a traveller feels on returning to his long lost home. My eye lingered till, by the descent of the hill, the tower disappeared in the wood. At length I reached the lane. I clambered over the gate (unluckily fastened), and did not halt till I regained a view of the tower. My approach was a little struggle of human feeling. Its smallness seemed to me an optical illusion (as I am aware, a common effect, though not always noticed). It was a *camera obscura*, and not a scene of real life. The towers, which I once viewed as stupendous, were mere buttresses, the windows and doors tiny, and, altogether, a piece of mimic grandeur. In like manner, the farm-house appeared a small cottage, the barns hut, and the mill-stream a trickling ditch; and the lime-trees in front of the house, which I had considered as a forest-like shelter, now appeared stunted in their growth. I made my way to the interior, where the effect was continued: the paved kitchen, the trim parlour, the pantry—all receded; even Gulliver at Lilburn could not have felt more surprise, although he had the aid of wit and philosophy in its destination.

Having obtained the key of the only entire room, I hastened across the adjoining field, and in a few moments stood within the principal porch of Brambletye House. Here, such was the summary of my feelings. Within two hundred years the mansion has been erected; by turns the seat of baronial hospitality and civil feud—the best and basest feelings of mankind—the loyalty of Cavaliers; the fanatic outrage of Roundheads; and, ultimately, of wanton destruction. This was evident from the mutilated state of some parts which probably bore armorial or other symbols of rank and gentility—so scrupulous are levelers in displaying their hatred of legitimacy. The gate through which Colonel Lilburne and his men entered was blocked up with a hurdle; and the court-yard in which he marshalled his forces, covered with high flourishing grass; the towers have become mere shells; but the vaults, once stowed with luxuries and weapons, still retain touch of their original freshness. What a contrast between these few wrecks of turbulent times and the peaceful scene by which they are now surrounded—a farm and two water-mills—on one side displaying the stormy conflict of passion and petty desolation—and, on the other, the smiling attributes of humble industry. Alas! on a farewell glance, I learned by visitors' names perched on the wall (and not unknown to me), that I was not the first to sympathize with the fate of Brambletye.

Within the few years, through an almost unpardonable disregard for their own lodge, and some part of the mansion, have been pulled down; the moated-house has shared the same fate—for the sake of a few acres of ground, in which I rejoice to hear the destroyers have been doing good. The work is worth not being equal to the labour of removing the old building.

destruction would, however, have extended to the whole of the ruin, had not some guardian hand interfered for its preservation.

All that remains of the mansion is represented in the accompanying sketch by our informant except the cellars, which are capacious and display columns and pointed arches—from their apparent firmness leading to the conclusion that not time but violence had destroyed the rest. The structure is now an ivy-covered ruin, though little more than two centuries have elapsed since it was built.

THE CONSOLER.

In Winter, when the trees are bare,
And nights are moonless;
When in the damp and chilling air
The birds are tuneless;
When keen winds rattle on the road
And nip our fingers,
There is a comforter abroad,
Who never lingers.
Ever he sings in silent ways—
"The winter closes:
'Tis I bring back the sunny days,
And strew the roses."

When Summer heats our veins oppress,
And the woods swelter;
When, faint with noon-tide sultriness,
We pine for shelter;
When weary of the daily walk
O'er moor and meadow,
We long for change—for fire-side talk,
And the lamp's shadow;
Still sings the soother of our woes—
"To sigh is folly:
The same kind hand that brought the rose,
Shall bring the holly."

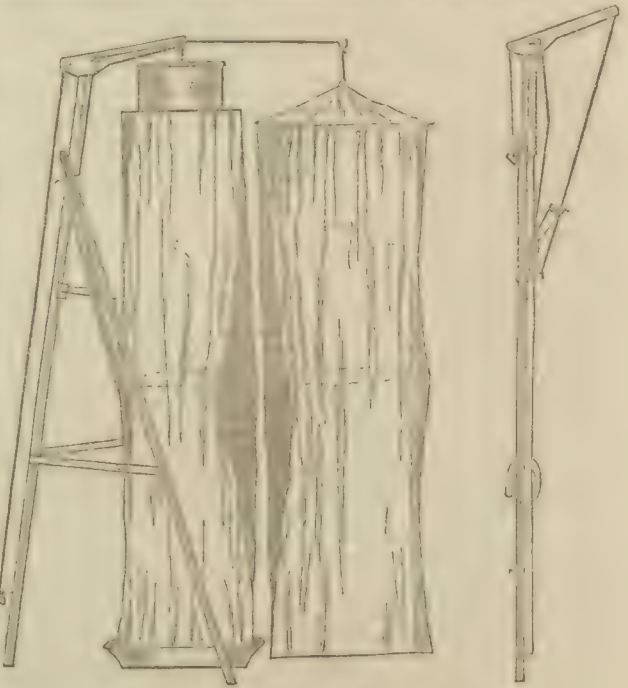
True friend!—too often call'd a foe—
He prompts all gladness;
He whispers warmth when cold winds blow
And joy in sadness;
He lights the darkness of to-day
With promised morrows.
And has some kindly word to say
In all our sorrows.
For every grief he bears a spell—
Care's best controller;
And loves all those who use him well—
Time, the Consoler!

CHARLES MACKAY.

NEW SHOWER-BATH.

At this season, when the excessive heat renders the Bath particularly grateful, a few words on the subject may not be out of place.

The Baths most serviceable to the public generally are those which are available at all seasons with the least inconvenience or loss of time, which do not require a large supply of water, and which render bathing the more agreeable. On looking over the different kinds, the Shower-bath appears to possess these qualities in an eminent degree; for, apart from the medical qualities ascribed to it, a complete ablution may be obtained with a very small expenditure of water, as the stream is continually fresh, while the curtain that surrounds it prevents the water being thrown about the room. The most effective method of using it is to wash all over first with soap, allowing a little water to escape from time to time for this purpose, the greater portion being reserved for the finish. Except during the summer-months a warm bath is decidedly the most agreeable, as the sensation produced on the breathing is entirely removed when the temperature is raised to 90 deg. Fahrenheit. With these remarks we will proceed with the bath represented in our Engraving.



PORTABLE CRANE SHOWER-BATH;

Designed and registered by Mr. Loseby, of Gerard-street, Islington.

Figure 1 shows the apparatus complete. The stand is made of wood, and consists of three supports, which, when extended, form a triangular base. The longest carries a cross-head, furnished with two pulleys, over which a cord passes, having a handle appended to one end, and a hook to the other, for connecting the bath. A rod, hinged to the stand, projects from the head, and to this is suspended a curtain large enough to serve as a drying apartment. Both this and the bath curtain are furnished with wire springs, marked in the Engraving by dotted lines, which, when hooked, close them instead of strings. They prevent the curtains collapsing at the middle while in use, and, when unhooked, keep them apart to dry. When the apparatus is not required, the bath may be taken off, and the stand closed, by raising the triangular stay. It will then assume the appearance shown in Fig. 2, and in this condition it may be placed in a corner, or removed for use to another room. In order to fill the bath, it is lowered, and the handle placed on the top hook. The water is then poured in, and the bath raised by drawing the handle down to the bottom hook. In doing this, the handle should not be carried farther from the back standard than necessary.

Advantages.—1. Its portability; the stand only weighing 9 lb. 2. The small space it occupies when closed. 3. Providing a curtained space to dry in; thus rendering the bath, by using warm water during the winter months, equally agreeable all the year round. 4. The low cost at which it can be manufactured. 5. The stability and strength which is obtained by the form of the stand. To explain this, it may be necessary to state that a plumb-line suspended over the front pulley would fall about 54 in. within the base, and 264 in. from the back standard. The centre of suspension of the Bath, which, when it is filled, may be taken as the centre of gravity of the stand, would consequently be 264 inches from the back standard; and as this is where the power is applied to raise the water, it would be equal in stability to a base of twice this extent, where the centre of gravity was close to coincide with the centre of the base.

Respecting the strength, it may be observed that the standards are materially relieved from unequal pressure at three different points: the first being where they are connected by the joint screws; and up to this point the back one is proportionally strengthened; the second at the triangular stay; and the third where the webbing is attached. A weight suspended from the cord would, therefore, be pretty equally distributed throughout.

LIST OF LUNATIC ASYLUMS.—A Parliamentary paper, recently published, contains an abstract of all the moneys received and paid on account of lunatics in counties and boroughs in England and Wales during the year 1841. In Bedford the expenditure was £6751; Chester, £13,388; Devon, £5621; Dorset, £3100; Gloucester, £13,388; Hampshire, £13,388; Hereford, £13,388; Hertford, £13,388; Kent, £13,388; Lancashire, £13,388; Leicestershire, £13,388; Lincolnshire, £13,388; London, £13,388; Middlesex, £13,388; Norfolk, £13,388; Northampton, £13,388; Northumberland, £13,388; Nottingham, £13,388; Oxford, £13,388; Devon, £13,388; Somerset, £13,388; Stafford, £13,388; Warwick, £13,388; West Yorkshire, £13,388; West Riding, £13,388.

THE TRAVELLING ENGLISH.

IMRESSED as we are, by various maxims, from the earliest days of the Eton Latin Grammar to the present hour, that Time flies quicker than anything else, except the electric telegraph, still, year after year, the rapidity with which the Season goes by always surprises us.

Winter passes, and, before the crocuses have drooped, the announcements of the Operas proclaim that the Season is commencing. Gradually, as we have more than once shown in this Journal, it reaches its height. We still anticipate its gaieties, from long habit acquired all through the winter—still plan any number you please of amusements—still look forward to finer weather; and, in the middle of all this, we are startled by finding town emptying, Parliament ending, blinds closing, advertisements thinning, the Continent teeming with English, everybody gone everywhere, and the much-looked-for Season slipped away whilst we were thinking about the enjoyments that we intended should characterise it.

It is very hot and close in London. The most plodding people, who have laboured at their various callings since October patiently and without complaint, get irritable and restless, and long for expansion and circulation; all their metropolitan summer pleasures are coming to a rapid end. The window mignonette has straggled to seed, and is dry and dusty; the whitebait have turned to gudgeons; the theatres have closed; the Operas have exhausted their repertoires; the ornaments in the fire-grate have become unpleasantly dingy; Vauxhall has got to a shilling; clubs are deserts; peas and strawberries are things that were—now only dwelling in the calm, deep caverns of memory; evenings are unbearable; and one cannot live for ever upon Venham ice and its compounds. There is no help for it: make what excuse you please—the power to expend, or the wish to retrench—your own health or the sickness of the children—any real, doubtful, or imaginary reason you can hit upon—all comes to the same point; it is absolutely necessary to get away from London.

There is a comical trick—"experiment," perhaps, is the most proper term—performed with an electrifying machine. A number of pith figures, collected on a conductor, in a grave and orderly manner, upon being excited, after much restless activity, dart suddenly away in every direction, in a reckless, feverish manner, as diverting to contemplate as it is incomprehensible to account for. Some dart off at once—others jostle and waver before they take their departure—and one or two always remain for some time, as if in grave uncertainty, until, at last, unable to resist the impulse, they fly away like lightning, and so disappear.

Something very like this movement is now commencing amongst us; and in another fortnight the Continent will be overrun by travelling English; and preparations for the reception of our sovereigns have already been made in all the hotels. No matter in what country—whether it be at the Hôtel Meurice, or the Meerenlogement, or the Gasthaus zum Rheinberg, or the Albergo della Posta, or even the Astor House at New York, Shephard's at Cairo, Delmonico's at San Francisco, or the North Pole—at all these places polyglot waiters have been engaged (English predominant), and large stocks of London bottled porter laid in.

Now it is that *Bradshaw* sells in double quantities—British and Continental, and Ostend, Calais, Boulogne, and Havre rejoice. Now the inns at Southampton, Brighton, Folkestone, Dover, and London-bridge have constant change of passengers, with mighty luggage, for one night only. Now the cockney Rhine, and her graceful sister, the beautiful Moselle, rub up their boats, and prepare their banks for any amount of deposits. Now all the fibs about Rolandzeck and the Drachenfels, and the Lurleyberg are read over again by the romantic, and profanely scoffed at by the unbelieving; and folks take sketches of points on which tons of black lead must, years ago, have been expended; and drink hock perpetually, beginning at six in the morning, because they are on the Rhine, and it is cheap; and bathe at Baden, being in perfect health, to cure themselves; and, after Shakspeare, think Murray's handbooks the greatest works ever written.

Now, still further, the large family of the Smiths—whose different members have won battles, lost prize-fights, composed sermons, written farces, and been knighted, transported, presented at Court, and hanged—these good people also flock abroad, and meet all their friends there. More Murray's "Handbooks" everywhere—upon the top of the Righi, and down at the bottom of the Gemmi—lying on the tables of the lonely convent of the Great St. Bernard, and chequering the reading-rooms of the lively Interlaken. Next to *Galignani's Messenger*, there is nothing in the world has such a wonderfully out-of-the-way circulation. Once more, their tastes are consulted amidst all the glories of Switzerland. They gaze on the mighty glaciers of Grindelwald, as they flavour their trout with Burgess's Essence of Anchovies; they drink London porter with the roar of the Jungfrau avalanches sounding in their ears; they buy a little carved wooden nutcracker, wrapped up in a bill of Rowland's Kalydor; and, if they do not find the "fairest of Zurich's fair daughters" dressed in the newest English patterns, they may be sure enterprise is asleep for the time. Still further away, the active inhabitants have prepared for the English outburst. They can get Windsor soap under the shadow of Vesuvius (and they need it after an ascent); they can buy Day and Martin's blacking after a dirty walk through Constantinople (and they need it equally); Professor Holloway dispenses his pills at Athens for them (which, perhaps, they do not need so much); and it is hard indeed, if at the stronghold of steel, Damascus, they do not find some Birmingham pens to write home with. If Paris were the city to which all roads ran, London is the city from which all roads start. If a second Bruce would only go a little further south, and Mr. Gordon Cumming a little further north, so as to establish a fixed and certain highway through Africa, from Cairo to the Cape of Good Hope, in another year there would be excursion parties to the Equator; and we should have views of Donga, Zanzibar, Kaondia, and other strange places, where Mr. Sherif Nicoll had established a Paletot Consulate. Railways would follow, as a matter of course; and the Equinoctial Line be the cheapest, as its heat could boil its own water. *Bradshaw*, already a large book, would become the size of Bohn's Guinea Catalogue, and require a regulation buffalo Overland portmanteau to itself; and the Ethiopian Melodies would be discovered to be as unknown in their presumed country as the Syrian Paletot in Jerusalem, or the Persian Sherbet at Bagdad.

It must not be supposed that the decline of the Season alone takes the Smiths, Wests, the Browns, Jones's and Robinsons, abroad to all these places, for pleasure merely. Last year we encountered a strange fish in the far east, who was certainly not a fashionable tourist. He had been everywhere—which comprises an extended tour—and yet we could not exactly make out wherefore he had thus travelled. At last one day we discovered. He had been talking, all in a breath, about Greece, Algiers, Amsterdam, New York, and Manchester; and we ventured to remark that "he had travelled a great deal."

"Well, I may say I have," he replied, with a slight provincial accent. "I've followed the plague and the cholera into every corner of the Levant this year."

"You have been fortunate to escape them," we suggested.

"Not at all; diet did it," he answered. "No kickshaws for me; no kebabs and pillafs and other nastiness—English fare, sir; roast beef all the world over."

We hinted at the occasional difficulty of procuring that national dish.

"Not at all, sir. I never travel without half a dozen oxen in my dressing-case."

There was something very strange and awful in this admission. We had some faint notion that he might be connected with a periodical which last winter advertised an appalling riddle, showing how many dreadful living things, as well as ghosts and giants, could be put in a work-box. Fortunately he soon relieved us from our distressing incomprehensibility. He took a small lozenge from his waistcoat pocket, and observed, "There, sir; that's a compressed round of beef. The party as made that could put a flock of sheep into a snuff-box. Taste it, sir."

We did, and found that it was very like unpleasant glue; to conceal our impression we turned the conversation, and asked,

"What did you think of Athens?"

"Athens!" he replied, with a sneer. "Ah! that is a wretched place. It's all ruins: they don't restore 'em, and they don't clear 'em away; but there they are, so much rubbish. Poor people, the Greeks—wretched set. I didn't sell a pocket-handkerchief the whole time I was there."

The secret was out: our friend was travelling for a Manchester house.

"But did not Constantinople please you most?"

"Ah, that's something like a place—great people the Turks, sir. I sold half-a-gross the first day I got there. They were all children's handkerchiefs too—cotton ones, the alphabet round them, and a dancing bear in the middle. I persuaded them that the letters were spells against Russia, and that the bear was the Emperor, and the man making him dance, Mr. Cobden. They'd heard of him, bless you, heaps of times; and so I did a capital business."

"How did you find Egypt?"

"No great things; the climate's too dry. Nobody ever has a cold in their head there, except the travellers on the Nile, from the night-dews. But that does no good: they are all nobs, and bring their own handkerchiefs with them. No; give me Lincolnshire when the floods are out, in the influenza time. It's worth all your Athenians put together—that it is."

Our friend quitted us at Malta, to try his luck at Tunis. How he fared there, or what impressions he carried away of the city, we have never heard. In meeting him, we discovered one of the driving set, to whose restless energy we are indebted for our English comforts abroad; and therefore we have introduced him. His "compressed meat," without doubt, formed another of his Mediterranean speculations. In time, he, and others of his kind, will import anchovy paste to the Sandwich Islands; establish sherry-cobblers in Iceland; and send air-tight tins of Cambridge sausages to Turkey.

By the time this sheet is in the reader's hands, half London will have left town. Monster double-engined trains, with twenty or thirty well-packed carriages on their trucks, are leaving our termini every hour for the sea-ports: cheap excursions, which we believe will end in "To Paris and back for a shilling," are taking off additional hundreds: tourists generally are running, as thick as ants, over all the show-spots of Europe; and those who cannot afford either time or money for a Continental scramble, still cannot stay at home, but establish themselves with a false medium, through which they comfortably find a Switzerland on Hampstead Heath, a Baden-Baden at Rosherville, a Versailles at Hampton Court, or a reflection of the Desert on the dull, level sands of Worthing.

ALBERT SMITH.

THE NEPAULESE AMBASSADOR.

The following passages relative to the Nepalese Minister, are extracts from a letter from Calcutta, written on the very day of his embarkation for England:—

"CALCUTTA, April 7.

"The visit of the Nepal Minister will be, I imagine, the most remarkable one you have received this century. Ramohun Roy was a clever, quiet, intellectual Bengalee Hindoo gentleman, who, I believe, turned Unitarian, and died in England. Dwarkanath Tagore, whom the good folks at home appeared to think a very great man, was a humbug; in fact, he was rich only, or thought to be so. The Pasha of Egypt was comparatively next door to you, and a Mahomedan; but our Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Nepalese, fresh from his mountains, is a genuine and most strict Hindoo—a nobleman of the Rajpoot caste and the Gorkha tribe—the most valiant, and now nearly sole independent of the native states. As he will probably remain in England two or three months, you may perhaps see, and will, I am sure, be interested by him. He is 32 years of age only; rather slight in figure, but neatly formed; strong, firm, and agile as a hart; forming a strong contrast with his two stout, or, rather, fat brothers, who accompany him. His features are of the Tartar cast. He appears to have great physical courage. On his way down to Calcutta, in the steamer, passing through the jungly shores of the Sunderbunds, some object of game exciting his attention, regardless of tigers and alligators, and to the great alarm of his followers, he jumped overboard into the water or mud, but returned equally safe and unscathed."

"I have said nothing of his history in my letters to our sisters; it might horrify their feminine, and startle your European feelings, but will add to the romantic interest of your visitor. He is, or rather was, nephew to the late Prime Minister of Nepal, Mahtub Singh, who, with his regiment of Gorkhas, visited Calcutta some few years back. About four years ago, this young man (Jung Bahadur) discovered that his uncle, the Minister, had conspired against the lives of himself and brothers—for what reason I know not; whereupon, slinging his double-barrelled rifle over his shoulder, he proceeded to the Durbar (council and council-room), confronted the Minister, and charged him with the intent. The latter hesitated, and they speedily came to hot words; when our hero, unslinging his gun, shot the said Minister dead upon the spot. A bloody fray then ensued between the Durbar people and Sree Jung and his brothers (he has some six or seven), who were with him. The former were nearly all cut to pieces. Sree Jung, with the loss of one brother killed in the fray, was victorious; and immediately, all bloody as he was, and his gun upon his shoulder, hastened to the King, told his own story, declared it was in self-preservation, and demanded the Royal sentence at once. The Monarch, however, thinking it better to conciliate such a spirit, told him in reply that he had no doubt the slain minister had been in the wrong and he in the right; on which, 'staying no further question,' he hurried back to the Durbar, and immediately proclaimed himself Prime Minister. Now, I certainly did not receive this story from his own lips, but from those of a gentleman who came down with him in the steamer. I believe it, however, to be perfectly correct. Of course, in giving you this anecdote, I should be sorry if the spirit of

Our fiercer Orientalism,
Should somewhat shock your Western sentimentalism.

I should be sorry, that is, to prejudice his reception amongst any who, ignorant of the elements of Asiatic character, or Asiatic education, mind, morals, doctrines, and opinions, might regard him as a sort of George Barnwell or ordinary cut-throat. On the contrary, his manners, his abilities, his tact, and energy have all confirmed him in the goodwill of the Nepalese army and people; and I look upon his visit to England as one of the many gradual but sure measures and steps by which the Almighty is paving Asia with civilisation. His power as Minister is unbounded (over life and death), and is, indeed, greater than that of his Sovereign. I suspect that, like Macbeth, 'he shall be King hereafter.' The present one (whom, in point of fact, Sree Jung placed on the throne) is nothing, or little more than a boy and a puppet. Intelligent, energetic, high-spirited, ambitious, inquisitive, and politic, knowing that the Company's charter is nearly out, and observing that our conquests are extending right and left, he probably thinks it well to conciliate the Queen of England on her throne. His visit, therefore (of which no one knows the precise object), may probably arise from mixed feelings and motives of policy, ambition, curiosity, and a love of show and adventure. He gave me to understand that his leaving Nepal on this mission was much opposed, and that he had to steal away, as it were, to effect it. It is to be hoped that you English will not kill him with balls, routes, late hours, coughs, and colds. Cold, however, is his element. Were he not to return safe, his brothers and attendants would not dare, I am told, to return to Nepal."

"Previous to the return of the troops which had escorted him here, I witnessed his leave-taking. First, the officers, after each receiving either pay or a present of money (which he and his brothers touched), stood in front, and one by one addressed him. He replied, and after some reluctance, as it appeared to me, and many repeated salaams, withdrew. They had, of course, spoken in Gorkha, but, on their leaving, he turned and explained to me in Hindostanee the purport of their address. 'They say it is putting shame upon them that they have to return to Nepal without me; that they have brought me in safety here, and it is equally their duty and their desire to take me back in safety.' So I told them, 'It is well; on my return from England you can do so: come down again to Calcutta, and take me back to Nepal.' 'They can't understand,' said he (speaking generally), 'why I should take all this trouble and expense, leaving my country and my friends.'

The sound of a bugle now announced the troops to be ready to salute him; so he stepped into the verandah overlooking the garden, on the broad path of which a long line of bright and terrible bayonets (shaped like the kukree or Nepalese dagger-knife—a very handsome carved weapon) glittered in the sun. After he had addressed a few words to the men the line saluted twice, and were then (half of them with their faces towards him) ordered to march. One or two companies, however, at the end nearest to him, appeared unwilling to move, and while they stood men from the ranks addressed him. He stopped them, however, by reminding them that it was not customary to address their officers with arms in their hands, and again ordered them to move, which they did with evident regret; those about me declaring that some were 'rota-hy,' i.e. crying. He is certainly very much liked by them all."—Times.

THE LATE SIR ROBERT PEEL.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Allow me to suggest, through your columns (if the suggestion has not been offered before), that, among the monuments to the memory of the late distinguished and justly lamented Sir Robert Peel, some, at least, might be raised in the form of endowed, or (which is better) partially endowed Schools, to be called by a name which would constitute them a memorial, from which living monuments of the admiration and esteem of his fellow-men for that which is great and good shall issue forth from year to year. Would not monuments of this nature be far more congenial than mere pillars and tablets of stone to his character who refused a dignity never before offered to a commoner, modestly and that his remains should not have the vain pomp of a public funeral, and that no member of his family should accept title or reward for the services which he had rendered to his country? Would not this be a continuance of his life, as it were, in that which he ever desired, the improvement and advantage of his countrymen?

A. W.

GOLD FROM CALIFORNIA.—The total amount of gold dust received in the United States from California since the commencement of the "diggings" up to the present time is 20,100,000 dollars.

SKETCHES OF ST. PETERSBURG.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HINTS FOR A PAINTER.—THE GUNS OF THE FORTRESS IN TIME OF INUNDATION, &c.

THERE are not many capitals in the world to which an accomplished painter of costumes, manners, and scenes of human interest might, with so much profit to himself and entertainment to his admirers, make a few months' excursion, as to St. Petersburg. Indeed, a whole year's residence in this city would be amply repaid to such a tourist. I have already given your readers a few features of its winter physiognomy. Its summer face is hardly less remarkable. About the beginning of May it seems as if, by the wand of enchantment, this mazy world of palaces, canals, and quays was transported two thousand miles to the south. A week ago, and the thermometer of Reaumur (remember, of Reaumur) had marked thirty degrees below freezing-point; now (June) it is from twenty-five to thirty degrees above it; and where, but the other day, all was ice, now the trees are budding, and thousands of flowers are in full beauty and variety. The green of nature, too, is infinitely more intense, the foliage more thick, than in our temperate climate; and the luxuriance of vegetation is more remarkable than even its rapidity and the suddenness of its apparition.

An ordinary incident will best illustrate the magical transition. Suppose you have gone to see the chariot-race on the ice-paved surface of the river Neva. It is an exciting thing to see the troikas start with their fiery horses; you may have stood too long, or allowed your fur mufflings to get loose, and the consequence is a rheumatic cold. You keep your bed for three weeks or a month, and the next time you go out, you repair to the scene of the late chariot-race. In the very spot where the wild-looking Russian racers had whirled the light troikas over the bleak, white course, you see the deep waves of the purest and bluest river in the world bearing thousands of little oar-boats, covered with awnings to protect the lounging occupants from a fierce sunlight, while the gondoliers sing rude Asiatic airs as they row lazily from the deep green shades of one shore to the deep green shades of the other.

Every here and there along the wooded and palace-crowned banks, a dark arch invites your idle boat into the canals that intersect the city through its centre, and by means of which you can land at the very door, perhaps, where you are expected to join some sociable circle over "the cup that cheers, but not inebriates." Canaletti could have made himself as immortal in Petersburg as he did in Venice. This is as great, as populous, as strange a city as the other. There, indeed, the streets were canals; here, the canals merely run in the middle of a great many streets, throwing the houses still further apart. But the effect is singularly freshening, lively, and beautiful. Yet it is to be remembered, that these very waters which lend such charms to St. Petersburg, are also often its scourges. At this very moment, six o'clock P.M., a sound is ringing in my ears that makes every heart beat for ten miles round. The artillery is thundering with quick and redoubled violence from the fortress. It is a warning well understood by the inhabitants; and right well is that startling and far-echoing roar suited to the purport of its message—"the waters are rising!" It is now better than twenty-five years since the last really calamitous inundation. Just before Alexander's death that terrible event occurred, when, in twelve hours, several millions' worth of property were destroyed completely—and when that Emperor signalled for the last time, by acts of splendid munificence and anxious charity, the blended energy and tenderness of his character. The Nevski Prospect—the Regent-street, or rather Oxford-street of this capital, broader than either of them, and about two miles and a-half long, as straight as an arrow, and running through the very midst of St. Petersburg, at not much less distance from the Neva than that between Piccadilly and the Thames, was for several hours a foaming and eddying river, forty feet deep. Count Stroganoff, one of the palaces of whose family adorns that very street, and had then all its lower storey concealed beneath the waves, rowed up and down the flood in an open boat to help the drowning fugitives, and by his own exertions saved a prodigious number of lives. But I should never end with the traditions and incidents of that great calamity. What may happen now recalls the mind from what happened then. The artillery is still thundering at intervals. The waters are visibly swelling even within the granite quays of the canal before my own windows, remote as it is from the more immediate scene of danger and desolation, down towards the mouth of the gulf.

The people in that quarter are now removing their stores and furniture from the basement storeys. The merchants are grateful for the vigilant brazen mouths that roar forth the timely notice. Droschkas, and limégas, and carriages full of people are beginning to drive to the upper part of the town. Little children are standing in groups at the cast-iron balustrades of the canals, and pointing to the water-marks.

But now a considerable time has elapsed and no more guns have been fired. Every one is looking at his watch for the quarter of an hour. That is the time when the next discharge will certainly be heard if the waters are still rising. It is the quarter—no gun. Another quarter—all is still silent in the fortress. You hear a sigh of relief from more than one breast. All is well: the threatened inundation has paused in its course. Several hours have now passed and the fortress has not again raised its voice of thunder.

The occasional overflows, of which we were here threatened the day before yesterday with an instance, are easily explained. The Gulf of Finland is very narrow: if, therefore, a strong west wind prevail for a few days, and it comes simultaneously to rain heavily, an inundation must ensue on this low shore, which, crowned though it be with massive buildings, was originally a vast swamp, and is but a well-drained marsh to-day.

THE GIRL-SHOW AND BRIDE-MARKET.

A curious custom, among several other such, contributes, about this time of the year (July), to break the dull monotony which would otherwise characterise the round of the social day in a city so abandoned by the upper classes as St. Petersburg is in summer.

There is, in the upper part of the town (which is the fashionable part), a magnificent inclosure, called the Summer Garden, bounded on the north-east by the blue waters of the Neva, on the south by the Fontanka Canal, and on the north-west by another canal and the Champ de Mars, where the great reviews of fifty and seventy thousand men are held every May. Between that ground and the Summer Garden there is a third canal; so that this pleasureance is fairly girdled with shining waters, which are alive with little painted boats, and which form threads of that rich lace-work of canals with which the capital is decked. There is, besides, within the western end of the Garden a circular pond, with deep shelving banks. The spot is not only not void of trees, but even in the torrid blaze of the fierce summer of this place it is dark and cool, with their thick, overarched, and embowering foliage. In the Garden there is a great exterior walk for equestrians; and a labyrinth of inner walks, lined with marble statues, fringed with running borders of flowers, and resembling galleries on account of the impenetrable vault of unbragued boughs above, for the loiterers on foot. Such is the famous Summer Garden of St. Petersburg; in the extent of its grounds, the size and the number of its trees, the amenity of its atmosphere, and the general grandeur of its appearance, not for one moment to be compared with Kensington Gardens, with its park undulations, its baronial wealth of strong, old, venerable timber, its slopes, and its thoroughbred nobility of arrangement. Yet the Summer Garden is not to be despised in its generation: it is a very sweet refuge against the dust and sultriness; and, to provoke the audacious comparison with dear Kensington, military music lends its attractions on an occasional evening.

Now, as a girl, I have seen the Summer Garden many times, but I have never seen it in the winter when it has a more curious attraction than on that of Whit-Monday. That festival, according to Old Style and the Russian rubric, fell upon the 24th of June this year. What makes it so remarkable at St. Petersburg and among the pleasure-grounds in question, is the celebration then and in that spot of the Russian peasant girls' marriage-market. The maidens of that class, who are in want of a husband, repair on the evening mentioned, dressed in their best and bravest, to show themselves in the great walk; while the youths of a corresponding degree, who may be in search of a wife, proceed the same evening on view to the annual exhibition. The girls that are to be married, are dressed in their best, and wear their traditional white dresses, with their hair braided in a single braid, and adorned with a single gold ring. They are accompanied by their mothers, and seated mumbly together on benches, deeply read in the personal history of their own class at St. Petersburg, and sensitively alive to fixed fees, do the sentimental business, and drive the delicate trade.

A young man approaches one of these venerable dames, and says, "Mother, you notice that girl in the pink (or blue, or whatever it may be): she pleases me. On this paper are my name, address, what I am worth, and what I require in the other party." Perhaps, on the following evening you might see this young man and the girl who had shot him with her bright eyes strolling together through the other and more sequestered walks of the Summer Garden.

On last Russian Whit-Monday, then, wishing to see this girl-show, I went to the Summer Garden. The place was more crowded, if possible, than it had been at the great review in May. All that the season has left in St. Petersburg of the lower classes had assembled in the Garden, and when this vast assembly of the poor was seen, it was a sight to be remembered. The girls were dressed in their best, and wore their traditional white dresses, with their hair braided in a single braid, and adorned with a single gold ring. They were accompanied by their mothers, and seated mumbly together on benches, deeply read in the personal history of their own class at St. Petersburg, and sensitively alive to fixed fees, do the sentimental business, and drive the delicate trade.

I am not at present able to give you any statistical details of the manner in which marriages contracted in this primitive fashion work domestically; but it would be an instructive inquiry.



EMIGRANT NEEDLEWOMEN ON DECK.

EMIGRATION OF DISTRESSED NEEDLEWOMEN.

ALTHOUGH in our review of the Season, we have necessarily treated of public amusements, we ought not to lose sight of the fact that one striking characteristic of the past year has been that in the midst of so much pleasure, some of the most distinguished votaries of fashion have employed themselves in works of

active benevolence. The movement on behalf of the distressed needlewomen of London was a glorious instance of this interesting feature in the English character. From time to time the ladies and gentlemen who had devoted themselves to this work of benevolence, were enabled to despatch, in emigrant vessels, successive bodies of female emigrants, many of them rescued from the very depths of poverty and suffering, and all more or less objects of deep commiseration. The assembling of these voyagers on board the

vessels, the addresses made to them by Mr. Sidney Herbert, the Rev. Mr. Quekett, and others, and the personal interest taken in their fate by the noble ladies who had been working so hard in their behalf, were among the most touching incidents of the day.

We give two illustrations, one representing the deck of one of these ships; the other the between-decks, with the female emigrants making their arrangements for the voyage.



EMIGRANT SHIP, BETWEEN DECKS

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

SECOND SUPPLEMENT.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

On Thursday, as previously announced, her Majesty prorogued Parliament in person. The pageant as usual attracted vast numbers, the various avenues in the Park, from Buckingham Palace to the Horse Guards, and the street thence to the House of Lords being densely thronged with the lieges, who at once gratified their curiosity and testified their loyalty by an inquisitive gaze and a hearty cheer as her Majesty and Royal Consort and the gorgeous *cortège* passed along. Before twelve o'clock the windows in the neighbourhood of Whitehall exhibited a gay assemblage of fashionably dressed ladies and gentlemen, anxious to testify their loyalty to the reigning Sovereign.

The doors of the House of Lords were opened at twelve o'clock for the admission of those who had been so fortunate as to obtain the necessary tickets, and before one almost every seat was occupied by Peeresses and other ladies, whose elegant and gay attire, combined with the gorgeousness of the edifice, presented a most magnificent and imposing spectacle.

At one o'clock a detachment of the Guards arrived, and lined the whole of the way from the Palace to Westminster Hall; being assisted in the performance of their duty by a strong body of police, under the superintendence of the Chief Commissioners.

At twenty minutes before two, the Queen and Prince Albert left

Buckingham Palace, passing through the entrance to the Horse Guards at two o'clock. In ten minutes from this time, the guns announced the arrival of the Queen at the House of Lords; and in another five minutes her Majesty entered the House, preceded by the heralds and officers of state, bearing the Mace, the Sword, the Cap of Maintenance, and the Crown upon a velvet cushion. Her Majesty, led by her Royal husband, and attended by her ladies, ascended the steps leading to the throne, Prince Albert taking his seat on her left hand. Having graciously bowed to the House, and seated herself, her Majesty requested all present to be likewise seated; when the Usher of the Black Rod was commanded to summon the House of Commons to attend, who shortly afterwards returned, accompanied by the Speaker and a great many members of the Lower House.

The Speaker then advanced to the bar, and made his obeisance to her Majesty, which she graciously and courteously acknowledged. He immediately addressed the Queen in a short speech, in which he briefly alluded to some of the more prominent measures which had occupied the attention of the House of Commons during the session now brought to a close.

Her Majesty then gave her Royal assent to the following public and private bills:—Spitalfields and Shoreditch New Street; Transfer of Improvement Loans (Ireland); Law Fund Duties; Savings-Banks (Ireland); Holyhead Harbour, Lough Corrib Improvement Company Compensation (Ireland); General Board of Health (No. 3); Consolidated Fund Appropriation; Crime and Outrage Continuance; and Friendly Societies.

The Lord Chancellor Wilde then, kneeling, presented to her Ma-

jesty a copy of the following Speech, which she read with great clearness of intonation and distinctness of pronunciation:—

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the satisfaction of being able to release you from the duties of a laborious session. The assiduity and care with which you have applied yourselves to the business which required your attention, merit my cordial approbation.

The act for the better government of my Australian colonies will, I trust, improve the condition of those rising communities. It will always be gratifying to me to be able to extend the advantages of representative institutions, which form the glory and happiness of my people, to colonies inhabited by men who are capable of exercising, with benefit to themselves, the privileges of freedom.

It has afforded me great satisfaction to give my assent to the act which you have passed for the improvement of the merchant naval service of this country. It is, I trust, calculated to promote the welfare of every class connected with this essential branch of the national interests.

The act for the gradual discontinuance of interments within the limits of the metropolis, is in conformity with those enlightened views



STATE DINING-ROOM AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

which have for their object the improvement of the public health. I shall watch with interest the progress of measures relating to this important subject.

I have given my cordial assent to the act for the extension of the elective franchise in Ireland. I look to the most beneficial consequences from a measure which has been framed with a view to give to my people in Ireland a fair participation in the benefits of our representative system.

I have observed with the greatest interest and satisfaction the measures which have been adopted with a view to the improvement of the administration of justice in various departments, and I confidently anticipate they will be productive of much public convenience and advantage.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The improvement of the revenue, and the large reductions which have been made in various branches of expenditure, have tended to give to our financial condition stability and security. I am happy to find that you have been enabled to relieve my subjects from some of the burthens of taxation, without impairing the sufficiency of our resources to meet the charges imposed upon them.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I am encouraged to hope that the treaty between Germany and Denmark, which has been concluded at Berlin under my mediation, may lead, at no distant period, to the restoration of peace in the north of Europe. No endeavour shall be wanting on my part to secure the attainment of this great blessing.

I continue to maintain the most friendly relations with foreign powers; and I trust that nothing may occur to disturb the general peace.

I have every reason to be thankful for the loyalty and attachment of my people, and while I am studious to preserve and improve our institutions, I rely upon the goodness of Almighty God to favour my efforts, and to guide the destinies of this nation.

The Lord Chancellor then, in her Majesty's name and by her Majesty's command, declared the Parliament prorogued until the 15th of October next.

Her Majesty descended from the throne, and bowing graciously to the assembled Peers, left the House, accompanied by her Royal Consort, and attended by the Royal suite. On disrobing, her Majesty resumed her seat in the state carriage, and, amidst a flourish of trumpets and the clash of the bands of the Guards, the procession returned by the same route to Buckingham Palace.

STATE DINING-ROOM, BUCKINGHAM-PALACE.

The State Dining-Room is a very handsome and spacious apartment, forming the southern extremity of the suite of state-rooms. It was not one of those built by George IV., but it was commenced by William IV., and finished by her Majesty, as is commemorated by the monograms in the circular panels in the walls. The room is lighted by windows on one side only, which look into the Palace gardens. The ceiling is coffered at the sides, and formed into three large compartments on its soffit by bands, inclosing sunken panels, enriched with roses. The large compartments rise somewhat in a domical form, and are filled with leaf foliage and large roses of elaborate character. The bands and spandrels forming the coving of the room spring from trusses of nice design, and are very highly wrought in floral ornaments. The chief entrances are at the north end of the room, one being from the ball-room, the other from the picture-gallery—a fireplace, with looking-glass over, dividing them. At the southern end is a deep recess, the extremity of which is almost filled by a huge looking-glass, in front of which, during state balls or dinners, the beaufet of gold plate is arranged, producing a most magnificent effect. Over the fireplace at the eastern side of the apartment is the full-length portrait of George IV. in his coronation robes, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence, in a most elaborately carved frame; and on either side are portraits of Frederick Prince of Wales and his Consort, and some other members of the Royal Family of former days. The spaces between the windows are filled up with huge looking-glasses. The chandeliers are of very neat character.

The scene we have represented in our Engraving is a small dinner party at the Palace, in which much of the splendour of Royalty is carried out in the exquisite arrangement and ornaments on the table, but no beaufet set out in all its effulgent glory. Her Majesty takes the centre of the table, Prince Albert being on her left hand.

There is no gilding or colour in the decorations of the room, all the walls and enriched ceiling being of very neat stone tint.

THE CIVIL LIST.

The following protest has been entered upon the journals of the House of Lords:—

1. Because the Civil List arrangement is framed upon statements laid before Parliament, with the full knowledge of the Ministers of the Crown, those statements being in the nature of estimates upon which the grant of income is to be made.
2. Because those statements contain a minute detail of the expenses for which provision is made, including the salaries of officers and even the wages of servants, and the grant is made on the supposition by all parties to the arrangement that such salaries are to be always paid.
3. Because, even as to the other heads of expenditure provided for, there is an understanding of all parties that nearly the same sums will be required during the continuance of the arrangement.
4. Because no supposition ever entered the mind of Parliament in making the grant, that large savings were to be effected out of the income granted, and on the contrary the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the Sovereign is wholly alien to the spirit of our constitution, which requires the Monarch to be dependent upon Parliament for the revenue by which his state and dignity shall be supported.
5. Because any such accumulation by means of savings upon the Civil List has a direct tendency to diminish the splendour and impair the dignity of the Crown, and so to defeat the very purposes of the grant.
6. Because for these reasons it is the undoubted right of Parliament to obtain information from time to time touching the amount of the savings under the several heads of the Civil List expenditure, and the rather because if there were a deficit instead of a saving, Parliament would be of course applied to for aid, whereas the public never can directly benefit by any surplus how considerable soever.
7. Because the amount of such savings must form an important matter in considering the applications from time to time made for Parliamentary aid in the establishment of the younger branches of the Royal Family during the reign of the Sovereign to whom the grant of the Civil List income was made, as well as in future arrangements which the wisdom of Parliament may make with respect to the rights and claims of the Crown.
8. Because no possible risk to the substance of the Civil List arrangement made with the Sovereign at the commencement of the present reign, can arise from giving the information sought; and there can be no indecency in disclosing the amount of the savings supposed, on good grounds, to have been effected, inasmuch as those savings must by law be made known to departments of the Government which are under no obligation to conceal them, and it must be made known under which head of the Civil List expenditure the saving, if any, has been made, or the deficiency, if any, has arisen.
9. Because the accounts before Parliament appear to state the amount of the savings—for example, £88,750 for the year ending the 5th of April, 1850; and, if this is an incorrect statement, or, in reality, the statement bears reference to some other matter than that which it seems to regard, justice to all parties requires that this should be explained and set right. But if, as appears, such savings have been effected, there can be no reason why Parliament should not be informed of the branches of expenditure on which they have been so effected.
10. Because it appears that, in pursuance of the Civil List revenue, and of £12,000 paid last year into the privy purse from the revenue of the Duchy of Lancaster, £20,000 have been paid from the revenue of the Duchy of Cornwall for the service of the Duke of Cornwall—a service which, at that illustrious Prince's tender age, can hardly require so large a provision; and no one has ever contended that into such an expenditure Parliament has not both the right fully to inquire, and the practice of so inquiring.

(Signed) DROGHDA.

A destructive fire broke out in the Kanturk Workhouse (Ireland), on Friday evening week, by which in a few hours the entire building on the main house, the dining hall, kitchen, bake-house, mill, and a part of the southern wing was burned to the ground—nothing left of this fine building but the walls. A part of the bedding was saved. No lives lost. The fire was accidental, and the building was insured.

FISHING EXCURSIONS UP THE THAMES.

EXCURSION I.—RICHMOND TO TEDDINGTON.

GENTLE reader, Parliament is "up"—the law courts are closed—all the world is out of town, and business is so dull as hardly to repay the trouble of opening the shutters. Suppose we take a trip up the river and go a-fishing? You start, and shrug your shoulders; "you are no fisherman; never held a rod in your life," and so forth. But what of that? It's never too late to learn; and fishing is precisely one of those few arts of which it may be averred that the learning of them is by no means the least pleasant part; every step and stage in your progress being marked by some incident of novelty, and every incident spiced by expectation, enlivened by surprise, crowned, perhaps, with triumph, which is all your own, and is none the less prized because it is cheaply bought, and may happen to be shared at the same moment by hundreds of fellow sportsmen in the same line.

The Fishing season on the good old "Father Thames" is now at its prime, and will continue improving for some months to come; and, perhaps, if a man wanted to enter upon his apprenticeship in the "gentle craft," he could not do so in a better school. The professional fishermen who dwell in the various villages along the banks, and whose mantles and whose punts have descended from father to son for generations, are reckoned some of the "cunningest hands in the world;" and well they may be so, for the fish here are cunning too; indeed, seeing how long and how pertinaciously they have been tempted, tickled, and tampered with by Cockney sportsmen of all shades and grades, the only wonder to me is that they are ever caught at all. But they are to be caught, as you shall presently see.

Before starting again, I say, to the Tyro, begin at the beginning, and, if you would learn well, be content to pay for learning. Depend upon it, it is more independent and more profitable in the end. Your great dons of amateur fishermen are a jealous, cantankerous, solitary, suspicious, supercilious lot, and avoid "a beginner" as instinctively as they would a mad dog. Seek not to fraternize with these "old hands" until you can pass unobtrusively through the first routine formulae of the art—such as adjusting your rod and line, choosing your own bait and putting it on your self, plumbing and ground-baiting your bottom (when you are bottom-fishing), and, above all things, holding your tongue. When you can accomplish all these matters tolerably well, you may pass muster, and may hope to be admitted into social fellowship at the fishing quarters, wherever they may be, with the oldest of the initiated; and then, if modesty and observation be happily combined in your natural endowments, you cannot fail to pick up many valuable hints as to the nicer *arcana* of your adopted art.

You are impatient to be off; and Richmond Bridge may be reached in an hour, or thereabouts, by boat, buss, or rail; so you have your choice of dangers by the way. I say Richmond Bridge, because there I consider the Cockney fishing-ground to begin; and Richmond to Teddington, I consider his first stage. "This true, ancient historians tell of 'shoals of roach,' which some two centuries ago used to 'come down from the country,' as low as the Temple and London Bridge; and of one John Reeves, a waterman of Essex stairs (*obit circa* 1730), who used to watch daily for their arrival, and then go round to apprise his customers, aldermen or barristers learned in the law, as the case might be, who forthwith, to the prejudice of books and book debts, came out to catch them. Those merry times have passed away, thanks to gas and steam, and the teeming sewers of modern Babylon; and although we still hear of certain fantastic barbel and roach, who at certain hours of the day disport themselves round certain piles of the unsightly and dangerous bridges of Battersea and Putney, I consider it idle for the London fisherman, intent upon business, to waste his energies at any intermediate place between the Custom House and Richmond.

As we are starting rather *à l'improvise* for a single day's excursion, I will not, as some of the masters of old have done, impose upon you the task of cutting, seasoning, and shaping your own rod; manufacturing your own line; rearing or preparing your own bait, and so forth (all this was very well in that primitive age when that noble point in political economy, the "division of labour," was not understood, and when Piscator, setting out for a day's fishing at Ware, "stretches his legs up Tottenham Hill," and thinks nothing of it, instead of going quietly by the Eastern Counties Railway): depend upon it, that, as a tyro, you can be much better supplied for all essential purposes, at the cost of a pound, at any fishing-tackle shop in town, than by all your own patching and planning; besides, whatever you may turn out to be deficient in, our fisherman will find you when we get afloat. Neither will I trouble you with a detailed account of the natural history, family connexions, and peculiar habits of the various members of the finny tribe whom you are looking forward to the pleasure of inveigling into your custody. These are all matters which you will take more relish for, and better understand, as you advance further in the practice of the art; and at present you are too much engrossed with the exciting expectation of a fine day's sport of a novel kind, to give ear to any such dry details: you want to fill that basket, of most modest dimensions, with fish of your own catching; and you care very little what sort of fish they may be, nor how they may be caught.

I may just observe, by the way, that, however saucy ignoramuses may condemn fishing for its monotony, and twit fishermen for their patience, which they consider allied to stupidity, there is, perhaps, no sport which offers such a variety of prey, nor which puts the ingenuity of man to so many devices and expedients in the catching of them.

These devices and expedients may be classed under three principal heads—float or bottom-fishing, trolling, and fly-fishing. In the first two the bait is sunk in the water; in the last it is dangled temptingly along the surface. Again, the last two have reference respectively chiefly to jack, pike, and trout, lords of the stream, neither of whom we are likely to meet with where we are going to-day. So confine your observations at present to float or bottom-fishing, by which, between Richmond-bridge and Teddington, we may take, or assist at, taking, a good many roach, dace, and barbel.

Thanks to the Thames Angling Preservation Society, aided by the Lord Mayor as far as the City jurisdiction extends, the river is now very strictly preserved, and cleared of those trading fishermen who used to poach all night, leaving not a solitary gudgeon to reward the labours of the angler in the morning. These gentry now find a better trade in "teaching the young idea" how to fish than they did in purveying for Billingsgate Market; and it is cheering to see how, for the requital of eight or ten shillings, they will assist the stranger, from whatever part he come, in plundering their favourite "deeps" of their finny treasures.

We are now arrived at Richmond, a favoured spot, in which art and nature have co-operated with a lavish hand to produce a panorama of exquisite beauty, unrivalled in any part of the world, at any period of the world's history. But I must not be tempted to enter upon the picturesque—the more particularly as the reader will find an interesting account of a steam-boat excursion up the river, from the Nore to Eton, in the Supplement to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of the 26th of May, accompanied by a panoramic plan of the river.

Richmond "Deeps," or preserved fishing waters, extend from the bridge westward up to the Duke of Buccleuch's mansion, where the greensward comes down to the water's edge—a distance of about 700 yards. From a third to half-way up, this portion of the stream will be found the best for barbel and dace; but the "Deep" is often so crowded that there is no room to pick and choose. Upon the whole, moreover, I think the young fisherman, out for a day, would do better to make his way at once to Twickenham Deeps, a little higher up, where the company is more select, the ground more secluded, and the sport, consequently, better.

We will go to Twickenham, however, by water; a skiff will only cost half-a-crown for a party; and on the voyage we shall have an opportunity of observing the equipment, conduct, artistic prowess, and probably some stroke of success, of our brother sportsmen; all which will give us zest and courage for our own exploits, which are about to commence. On either bank of the river, at various favourite spots, we behold small groups of brother "Bobs," fishing for roach, which are remarkably fine and large in the Thames, and the best season of which is just now coming on; and, here and there, a solitary enthusiast "whipping" with a black-gnat, or a common house-fly, for dace, which fish love the shallow, sharp streams, amid oozers and weeds, whence the flies and insects sometimes drop into their mouths. That gentleman, you will observe, has taken off his boots, to keep them dry, and is up to his knees in water; to counteract the evil effects of which he has a small "pistol" of brandy in his pocket.

As a general rule, I should recommend the inexperienced angler on his first day to attempt very little. Let him resign himself and his tackle unreservedly and complacently into the hands of one of the Coxens or Kemps, or whatever may be the name of the worthy fisherman who has taken him and his fortunes in charge; let him observe carefully all that is done in his behalf, and, with true romantic spirit, humming through his teeth, which still hold the "light clear," the burthen of some favourite air—as, for instance, "Il pescator di *Verona*" (except the *cantabile* reading);—await patiently what is to fall to his lot.

The punt being duly secured at a convenient spot over Twickenham "Deeps," which deeps extend from that famous spot which the reader has so often heard speak of, "Pope's Villa," down to the "Ait," better known to Cockneys as Eel-pie Island,

he will be charmed with the rural and varied aspect of the scene which lies before him, the old tower of Twickenham Church crowning the distance on the left, in the middle and on the right the "Ait," and a straggling array of punts and fishing boats surrounding it in various directions. Turning to the left in search of Pope's Villa, his unaccustomed eye will be struck with the appearance of a gaudy pile of a sort of mixed Swiss and Chinese order, which has been recently built by a gentleman retired with a fortune from the tea business, and which striking "object" now occupies the site of the elegant poet's late residence. The present fortunate possessor is said to have paid a large price for this little plot of ground, erst sacred to the Muses, and an inscription over the gate, on the roadside, informs the passer-by that—

"On this spot stood, till 1809, the House of ALEXANDER POPE the grotto that formed its basement still remaining. 1848."

Sic transit!—But come—no moral reflections: the fisherman has baited the ground and baited your hook, and thrown out your line, with a great bullet at the end of it, which flops into the water. You are going to fish for barbel, "ledger" fashion; or, rather, if you wish for sport, I should advise you to let your *cicerone* continue to handle the tackle until there is a bite; for there is a certain art required in "striking"—quickly, smartly, but not too violently—so as to secure the hook in the fish's mouth, thus making him "safe," and when this is done, he will give you the line to play with him, and land him, by means of the "gaff," or landing-net, which he, with alacrity, will get out for the purpose. Depend upon it, this is the pleasantest way for a beginner; he will have more sport with a "division of labour," than by attempting to do it all himself. But you may have another line out, if you please, and try float-fishing for barbel or roach, as the case may be; in either of which cases be careful of one thing, as the first step towards a proper handling of the rod, viz. to keep that part of your line which is above your float so tight, or nearly (taking care, however, not to disturb the free play of the float): this may be done by holding the rod nearly perpendicular



RICHMOND "DEEPS."

when you drop in the bait near the punt, and then lowering the point forwards as the float travels from you with the stream. The advantage of this rule is that it enables you always to have command over your hook at an instant's warning; and whether your customer be roach or barbel, you cannot be too quick with him, if you would lodge him in your basket. When I speak of quickness, I apply it only to the act of "striking," which secures the hook; it must not be continued to the lugging of the fish out of the water in the first instance, an operation which must be done gradually and with caution. Many inconveniences may result from a spasmodic attempt to land a fish on the first bite: if the fish be a heavy one, the rod, or line, or both may break; if it be a very light one, it will fly over your head, the hook becoming entangled in branches of trees, or the tackle of your neighbour; finally, by tearing your line out of the water too convulsively, you may chance to bring it away with a bare hook, the fish being gone, which hook in its gyrations may lay hold of your own ear, or the finger or nose of your neighbour.

This mischievous propensity of erratic hooks is, I can assure you, no laughing matter; nor is it very easy to get rid of the incumbrance, unless you know the principle upon which to act. I once recollect seeing a very grave individual walking into a certain village, from a neighbouring fishing-ground, with the hook on his line in his nose! He did not know how to rid himself of it. Now, clumsy practitioners would try to force the hook back, by which means they must infallibly tear away a part of your flesh in the barb. Others talk of cutting the flesh down to the hook, which will then come out clean, leaving, however, a clean scar, and one no joke to bear while it heals. Now, the proper method on the occurrence of such an accident is this:—Cut the hook off the line, and cut away the waxed thread with which it is whipped to the gut, and then the said hook may be very easily removed from the spot where it has fixed itself, drawing it backwards by the shank.

This is enough of instruction for a first day; and see, we have covered the bottom of our basket with barbel, roach, and dace, eight or ten pounds weight at least; so we will now go and dine at the little tavern on Eel-pie Island (the



TEDDINGTON.

middle of the day, when the sun is up, is never good for fishing); and, after that, take a trip up to Teddington, where we will continue our sport till sunset.

All about Teddington there is capital sport; the barbel and dace are particularly fine. Here, too, the tide of the river ends (hence the name): here is the first of the series of locks by which the navigation of the river is regulated; and here, at the Weir, is the lowest spot on the river where trout are sometimes taken in the season. But this is not to the purpose at present. In our next excursion we will go a little higher up the river and in our art.

NET PUBLIC INCOME OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.—A return has just been presented to the House of Commons, giving an account of the net public income of the United Kingdom in the year ending 5th July, 1850 (after abating the expenditure thereout defrayed by the several revenue departments), and of the actual issues or payments within the same period, exclusive of the sums applied to the redemption of funded or paying off unfunded debt, and of the advances and repayments for local works, &c. It appears that the total ordinary revenue and receipts for the year amounted to £52,778,635 13s. 6d.; and consisted of—Customs, £20,615,636 3s. 9d.; excise, £14,383,829 5s. 2d.; stamps, £6,802,954 1s. 9d.; taxes (land and assessed), £4,351,531 1s. 2d.; property tax, £5,459,844; post office, £834,000; crown lands, £160,000, &c. The expenditure amounted to £49,991,313 12s. 8d. Of this, £27,708,609 3s. 1d. was the total charge of the funded debt, and £403,896 16s. 6d. the unfunded debt. Other items were—civil list, £396,681 2s. 2d.; annuities and pensions for civil, naval, military, and judicial services, &c., charged by various acts of Parliament on the Consolidated Fund, £409,824 16s. 8d.; salaries and allowances, £278,862 19s. 8d.; diplomatic salaries and pensions, £158,963 6s. 7d.; courts of justice, £1,086,139 1s. 2d.; miscellaneous charges on the Consolidated Fund, £341,080 14s. 7d. The expenditure on the army was £6,577,378 0s. 2d.; navy, £6,381,721; ordnance, £2,375,464 13s. 8d.; miscellaneous, chargeable on the annual grants of Parliament, £3,872,101 19s. 5d. The excess of income over expenditure is £3,438,358 17s. 1d. To the above return there is appended an account of the balances of the public money remaining in the Exchequer on the 5th of July, 1849; the amount of money raised by the additions to the funded or unfunded debt in the year ending the 5th of July, 1850; the money applied towards the redemption of the funded, or paying off unfunded debt; the total amount of advances and repayments on account of local works, &c., with the difference accruing thereon, and the balances in the Exchequer on the 5th of July, 1850. The balances in the Exchequer, on the 5th of July, 1849, amounted to £701,293 18s. 1½d.; on the 5th of July, 1850, to £8,900,330 1s. 10½d. The total amount of advances during this period, for local works, &c., including £1086 19s. 9d. for drainage in Great Britain and distressed unions in Ireland, £1,229,369 12s. 1d.; ditto, of repayments of advances for local works, £1,229,369 12s. 1d.; leaving the excess of advances over repayments, £700,996 15s. 8d. Besides this, there has been issued to the Commissioners for the Redemption of the National Debt, to be applied to the redemption of the public debt, £348,980 17s. 11d., and to the paymaster of Exchequer bills, for payment of unfunded debt, £17,707,000.

A great storm and high tide took place on Friday week, in the Lower Shannon. The tide overpowered some embankments and committed extensive ravages in the district near the new road in course of construction to Mungret.

THE EAGLE.

FAR from the sound of the hunter's horn,
On the beetling cliff, by lightnings torn,
Lonely and drear are thy regal halls,
High o'er the floods and the waterfalls.
Where the bleak winds murmur rudely by,
Thy young come forth to the open sky.
Their nest is bare to the tempest cloud,
When the thunder-storm is pealing loud.
The ancient hold of a fearless race,
Nature hath charter'd thy dwelling-place.
Wild king of the rocks, the wing'd, the free,
Oh, how I envy thy liberty!

In sunshine and storm, to soar away
Where Atlantic roars in its giant play;
To trace from thy freehold home afar,
On his ocean path, the dauntless tar;
Lightly to skim o'er the briny foam,
Awhile with the sportive winds to roam;
And then, what joy in thy upward flight,
To gaze on the sun's unclouded light!
Glorious art thou! though wild and rude
In thy sovereignty of solitude!
Wild king of the rocks, the wing'd, the free,
Oh, how I envy thy liberty!

B. W.

CURIOSITIES.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S STIRRUP.—SILVER-GILT SALVER.

THESE curious specimens of olden art were exhibited to the Archaeological Institute, assembled at Oxford in June last.

The *Stirrup of Queen Elizabeth* is the property of Jesus College, by the heads of which it was lent to the Institute, and exhibited in the temporary museum in the Taylor Gallery. Elizabeth was a famous horsewoman; and the examination of this, the Royal riding-furniture reputed to have been used by the Queen of "Progresses," excited considerable attention. Of kindred interest was a table in the museum covered with spurs from Edgell and Ashdown, which, it was remarked, "spoke yet more strongly than Oxford herself of Charles I., and the reverses which he endured."

The antiquity of stirrups has exercised the ingenuity of men of learning; and Beckmann has taken some pains to collect and condense their researches. No traces of the invention are to be found in the Greek and Latin writers. Stirrups are not seen in the equestrian statues of Trajan and Antoninus; Xenophon does not mention them in his instructions in horsemanship and the art

WRECK OF THE "VICEROY" STEAM-SHIP.

(From a Correspondent.)

THE "Viceroy" left New York about one o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday the 21st of June, bound for Halifax, and almost immediately after having cleared Sandy Hook became enveloped in fog, which continued until seven o'clock on Monday evening, when the passengers were alarmed by the cry of "Land right ahead!"—"Back the engines!" followed by a severe shock. All hands were instantly on the alert, and during two or three hours the wheels were in forcible play backwards, while the crew and passengers were engaged in removing everything heavy to the quarter-deck and throwing the coal overboard; but, in a short time, our hopes of getting her off began to fail, as the tide was rapidly falling, and the furnaces were put out by the water, which had risen to within five or six feet of the deck. The fog had now quite cleared away, and the night was beautiful—we could easily see the land (Shag Island), which was within pistol-shot of our bows, rocky and wild, with a light surf. A boat was lowered, and soundings being taken, it was discovered that we were hanging on a rock midships, with plenty of water under our quarter: this, as well as a rocket which was sent up from the other side of the island, gave us hopes that, with help, she might be got off at high-water. About five o'clock next morning a boat hailed us, offering help from H.M. steamer *Columbia*, which they stated was coming round from the other side of the island, and had sent up the rocket: they informed us that we were on Shag Island, not far from Barrington Harbour, and about seven miles to the north of Cape Sable, and that, in all probability, the current of tide setting into the Bay of Fundy had brought us out of our course. The *Columbia* came round to our assistance shortly after; but, as the water had gained so much, it was useless to think of getting towed off. The passengers left in boats for Barrington, en route for Halifax (hoping to arrive in time for a home-ward passage in the *Canada*, which was advertised to leave on Thursday, the 26th inst.), as the distance is only 130 miles by sea, and coasting schooners are very abundant. The crew now, with the assistance of Captain Shortland, the commander of the *Columbia*, and her crew, set to work to get all the bulk-heads perfect, and thus confine the water to one compartment; and on Wednesday a messenger was sent to Halifax with the mails, and to request the admiral to lend a diving dress. On Saturday the bulk-heads were tight, and the water was soon pumped out of the fore and aft compartments, leaving the engine-room (in which was the leak) still full. Our endeavour now was to get this full of puncheons, and thus displace the water, as there was no sign of the return of the Halifax messenger. Casks were procured at Yarmouth, and lashed in the machinery, paddles, &c., and Wednesday, July 1st, was fixed for a grand trial; but on Tuesday, June 30th, a ship of war was descried in the offing, on the clearing up of a fog, which had continued for some days: she came rapidly towards us, and turned out to be H.M. screw-propeller *Plumper*, which the admiral, with his characteristic energy, had dispatched, with the diving-dress, to our assistance, the moment he heard of our position. It was too late to attempt anything that evening; but early in the morning the diver went down into the engine-room, and brought up several pieces of her bottom, showing that a considerable leak existed, which he was unable to get at, as it was under water. The *Columbia* made every effort to tow her off, but was unsuccessful, and again on the following day renewed her attempts with no better success. More casks being deemed necessary, a messenger was despatched to Yarmouth for two schooner loads: the first of these arrived on Saturday afternoon, and was quickly unloaded, but our efforts were again disappointed. That evening a heavy breeze set in from the west, creating a tremendous surf, which broke over us, and soon strained and tore the bottom of the forehold, letting in the water to the level of the sea outside. Sunday the gale still continued, inasmuch that the *Columbia* had to run for the harbour, and the *Viceroy* was letting more and more on her broadside every tide, leading us to fear that she would go over altogether. On the next day she was condemned, her valuables were sent to Yarmouth to be sold, and her hull and engines were advertised to be sold where they now are.

Thus ended a voyage, which, had it been successful, would have proved a great benefit to Ireland; and we must only hope that the tragical fate of the *Viceroy* will not prevent the formation of a packet station in Galway, or that the misfortune which has happened the talented and hitherto successful navigator who hitherto commanded her may not prove injurious to his character, knowing as we do the good sense of the public who will take into consideration the concurrence of a rapid current and a dense fog, the one hurrying the vessel from her course, and the other veiling the danger in obscurity.

The *Viceroy* is engraved in No. 430 of our Journal.

POST-OFFICE.—From returns presented to the House of Commons, giving the number of letters delivered in the United Kingdom for each week in which they were counted up to as late a period as practicable, it appears that in the week ending 21st February, 1850, the total delivered were—England and

Wales, 5,784,213; Ireland, 728,010; Scot-land, 727,739; gross total, United Kingdom, 7,239,962. For the year ending 5th January, 1850, the gross revenue for the United Kingdom was £2,165,349 17s. 9d.; the cost of management, £1,324,562 16s. 10d.; the net revenue, £840,787 0s. 11d. Postage charged on the government departments, £106,923 18s.; and net revenue, exclusive of charges of the government departments, £733,863 2s. 11d. The payment made by the Post-office for the conveyance of mails by railway in the United Kingdom during the year ending 5th January, 1850, was, for work done within the year, £128,713 11s. 2d.; for work done in previous years, £99,583 11s.; total £230,079 5s. 10d. In addition to this amount a sum of £25,000 was paid to the Chester and Holyhead Railway Company on account, but the portion for the work done in previous years cannot be distinguished, the rate of payment not being fixed. Of money orders there were issued from 6th January to 31st December, 1849, in England and Wales, 3,515,839—their amount, £6,880,865 11s. 2d.; in Ireland, 358,578—their amount, £592,504 14s. 3d.; in Scotland, 374,474—their amount, £679,273 12s. 1d.—total, United Kingdom, 4,248,891; amount £8,152,643 17s. 6d. The total of money orders paid in the same period in the United Kingdom was 4,245,352—their amount £8,158,356 14s. The cost of management, stated above at £1,324,562 16s. 10d., includes all payments out of the revenue in its progress to the Exchequer, except advances to the Money Order Office of the sum of £10,307 10s., disbursed in pensions, as follows:—£4000 to the Duke of Marlborough, £3407 10s. to the Duke of Grafton, and £2900 to the heirs of the Duke of Schomberg. Inclusive of these pensions there appears a sum of £17,084 14s. 2d., "charges other than management," entered above under the "cost of management." The expenses of the Money Order Office throughout the United Kingdom, during the year ending 31st December, 1849, were £70,248; the amount of commission, £70,570. Of this £58,770 was for England and Wales, £5695 for Ireland, and £6105 for Scotland.

JENNY LIND'S BROTHER.—It will be interesting to many of our readers to hear, that, last week, John Lind, mariner, of Stockholm, son of Hans Lind, schoolmaster, and brother of Jenny Lind, the "Swedish Nightingale," was married in the register-office in this town to Miss Mary Gee, of Pillgwenly. John had not seen his sister for many years, until he accidentally met with her the other day at Liverpool, on her professional visit to that place. Jenny presented him with a handful of pocket-money; but John, like his other two brothers, is able and willing to work for his bread, and if his sister were to offer him an annuity to exempt him from labour he would not accept of it. He spoke in the most affectionate terms of his sister, stating that she had supported her father and mother since she was sixteen years of age.—*Bridgegate Times*.

THUNDERSTORM AND LOSS OF LIFE.—On Thursday evening week, Halifax was visited by a most awful storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by heavy rain. The flashes of lightning were remarkably vivid, and, unfortunately, the storm did not pass over without loss of life; a little boy, named William Lambert, aged 12 years, son of Daniel Lambert, deliver, Upper-lane, Northowram, having been struck dead with the lightning, about a quarter past eight o'clock in the evening, while he was sitting in the house near the chimney; a little girl being seated a short distance from him and close to the chimney. The door of the house was thrown open, and also a window up-stairs. A little above the head of the deceased a pair of tongs was hung upon the wall, as customary in many country cottages. The thunder was loud and terrific, and the vivid flashes of lightning succeeded each other in rapid succession, until at length there came one brighter than the rest, and which rendered the mother of the deceased insensible for some moments. Upon consciousness returning, the little girl screamed out "Mother! Willy's dead." The distracted mother ran towards her child, who sat motionless in his little chair, with his head upon his breast and his arms hanging by his side. She spoke to him, but he answered not; and calling in her neighbours, the little fellow who, but a moment or two before, was full of life and vigour, was found to be a corpse. Not a single mark was found upon his body, excepting a very slight discolouration of the chest. A few yards above where he was sitting, the plaster was knocked off the wall to the extent of about twelve inches in length and one in breadth; and the middle nob of the ornamental work at the head of the clock, which stood in the opposite corner of the house, was knocked off. There was also a rent in the floor above the clock, and the posts of the bed were found to be slightly damaged. In the bed-room, a small piece of plaster was also taken out of the wall above the fire-place, but neither the tongs above alluded to, nor the fender or fire-irons, had apparently been moved. It would appear that the lightning had descended the chimney, through the room floor above the clock, and, being attracted by the tongs on the other corner of the house, expended itself upon the unfortunate child sitting beneath. The house itself stands in a somewhat prominent situation on the hill.

FUNERAL OF THE EARL OF DUNRAVEN.—At seven o'clock on Saturday morning the mortal remains of the late Earl of Dunraven were conveyed from the mansion of Adair Manor (Ireland) for interment in the mausoleum erected by the deceased nobleman in the churchyard of Adare. Over 4000 persons, including gentry, farmers, his Lordship's tenants, and the peasants of the surrounding district assembled to pay the last sad tribute to the memory of a good and benevolent resident landlord, whose affectionate solicitude for the interests of the labouring classes was fully demonstrated in his last moments, by a pressing request that his body might be borne to the grave on the shoulders of his tenants, without funeral car or other appendage. The chief mourners on the occasion were his two sons, Lord Adare (now Earl of Dunraven) and Hon. W. Quin, 13th Light Dragoons; Sir W. P. Gallwey, William Monsell, Esq., M.P., Wyndham Gould, Esq., Gamaliel Fitzgerald, Esq., Wyndham Fitzgerald, Esq., Richard Fitzgerald, Esq., John Fitzgerald, Esq. The Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy also attended; 1600 of the tenantry walking in procession, with scarfs and hatbands, and the deep regret felt for the late Peer was manifested by the sad expressions of the multitude assembled. The sarcophagus having been conveyed to the interior of the church, Archdeacon Warburton and the Rev. G. Beere, curate of the parish of Adare, performed the solemn funeral ceremony; after which the coffin was again removed to the burial-ground, and deposited in the family vault. Sir Vere de Vere, Sir David Roche, John Croker, Robert Maxwell, Gerald Blennerhassett, G. Fosbury, &c., joined the funeral procession; also, Archdeacon Warburton, Rev. Richard Dickson, Rev. E. Croker, Rev. R. Maunsell, Rev. G. Beere, Rev. G. G. Gubbins, Rev. Thomas S. O'Grady, P.P., Mr. John Owens, of this city, acted as undertaker, and his arrangements gave general satisfaction. The shell of the coffin was of Spanish mahogany, upholstered with white satin; outside this one of lead, and a third of oak, covered with rich black silk velvet, magnificently mounted.



STIRRUP OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

of riding; and Julius Pollux does not name them in his Lexicon of riding furniture.—See Beckmann's "History of Inventions," Bohn's edition, Vol. I., pp. 435—442.

In the King's House, or Lord Warden's Lodge, at Lyndhurst, in the New Forest, is preserved an ancient stirrup, said to have been used by William Rufus. It is of iron, and was once gilt. Its width at bottom is 10½ inches; depth, 7½; and measured all round it is 2 feet 7½ inches. It was formerly used as a test for ascertaining what dogs kept within the forest should suffer expiation, i.e. cutting off three claws of each of the fore-feet, to prevent their running. If a dog could be drawn through the stirrup, he was to undergo this operation to disqualify him for the pursuit of deer.

To return to the Archaeological Institute, at the Taylor Gallery. Prominent among the fine old plate displayed upon the tables, was the *Salver* here engraved. It is silver-gilt, in the general form of a shell, embossed with allegorical subjects of great diversity, but harmonizing into a very characteristic composition. In the *dordure* advantage is taken of the natural forms of shells, in combination with the scroll-work of art, diapered with flowers; the lion is *guardant* over the cornucopia, and the two boys appear as supporters; the angry bird of Jove scatters its lightnings, though not to disturb the serenity of the two Tritons, who are sporting with a dolphin in the sea beneath. This is a remarkably fine specimen of the plate-work of the 17th century. It is in the possession of the Earl of Ilchester, and was exhibited at Oxford by the Hon. Fox Strangeways. There are several works of this class preserved in the halls of colleges and city companies, where they are sometimes used as rose-water dishes; but rarely do we see so richly fanciful and elegant a production of the goldsmith's art as that now before us.

STEAMERS IN AUSTRALIA.—The following extract of a private letter from Sydney indicates an opening for the profitable employment of some additional steamers in New South Wales:—"Within the last few days the *Phoenix* steamer has become a wreck in a southerly gale, about five miles from the Clarence River. She now lies stranded on the beach high and dry, and quite a wreck. Her engines may be saved, and all her spars and gear. Thus you see we have lost the only steamer that plied on that important line, making an additional opening for a steamer of double the size and power of the *Phoenix*, which, indeed, was never large enough for the trade. I intend, as soon as I have leisure, to get you the particulars of all the dividends and profits now paid by the Hunter's River Company, and what the *Phoenix* was paying. There is the Port Phillip and Launceston line now only about a quarter supplied; indeed, from ten to twelve good steamers equal to the *Shamrock*, that is, about 140 or 150-horse power, and to carry from 200 to 300 tons of cargo, would find ample employment and capital profits on the various lines now requiring steamers both to the north and south. I wish the public in London could be made acquainted with our wants in this respect, for we have no capital here to build new steamers. Our means of intercourse along the lines of coast and up our navigable rivers have become so limited, that many parts of this country are now left in abeyance."

The Council of State of France has just decided that the Standish Gallery and the Spanish Museum, in the Louvre, are the personal property of Louis Philippe.

There is one place in the Union where lawyers are in demand. A correspondent of the *Missouri Republican*, writing from Fort Laramie, says—"If you could manage to send us a few of your briefest lawyers, a good judge, and a constable or two, I think they would do well in this part of the country."



SILVER SALVER, OF 17TH CENTURY WORK.

THE LATE INSURRECTION IN CEYLON.



KANDY, SKETCHED FROM UNDER CASTLE-HILL.

The Island of Ceylon, always a subject of picturesque attractiveness, has of late occupied a prominent position in the public mind, on account of the Reports which have just been presented to the House of Commons, by the Select Committee of that House "appointed to inquire into the grievances complained of

The interest attached to this inquiry, considerable as it was, from the circumstances of the rebellion and the great loss of life attending it, has been heightened in no small degree from its having been thought necessary to close the doors of the Committee-room to the public, and make the investigation strictly private. Nor should it be forgotten that, in this Committee, of which Mr. H. Baillie is chairman, there are Mr. Hume, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Gladstone, Sir J. Walmsley, and Mr. C. P. Villiers. One great spirit associated with these, the most illustrious of all, has, alas! gone from among us; and the sudden death of Sir Robert Peel has cast a melancholy tinge over the proceedings in which he took so deep an interest.

For our views on these proceedings we refer the reader to the opening page of the Number of our Journal published with the present Supplement, and headed "THE CEYLON INQUIRIES." Meanwhile, we are happy to be able to give our subscribers a glimpse of Ceylon, as portrayed in some sketches taken by an officer lately returned from that island, and of which we have been kindly permitted to avail ourselves.

Two or three of these are illustrative of incidents of the late rebellion; but before proceeding to describe these and the others individually, it may not be out of place to recall to the minds of our readers the position, appearance, and importance of Ceylon. The Cinnamon Isle, or Isle of Spices, as it has been sometimes not inaptly called, lies off the southern point of Hindostan, and may, to a great extent, be considered the key to the waters of India and to the Eastern seas. It possesses the only harbour of note: indeed, we may say the only safe haven which we can call our own, in that region of the globe; and Trincomalee will not lose by comparison even with Sydney or Rio de Janeiro.

The productions of Ceylon are numerous and valuable; and it must be presumed that, at one time, the natives were more energetic and industrious than now, for the Serendib of the ancients sent spices and pearls to Rome in the days of the earlier Emperors. At the present time we receive from it cinnamon, cardamoms, pepper, cocoa-nut oil, and a great quantity of our best coffee. The latter is grown entirely in the elevated regions of the interior, known as the Kandian provinces; while all the former articles are the productions of the low country and the coast. The northern and eastern part of the island is chiefly occupied by Tamils or Malabars, emigrants from the coast of India; the rest of the low country, forming a belt nearly round the island, by Cingalese; while the mountainous region towards the centre and south is inhabited by Kandians. The people belonging to the first of these races are by far the most industrious; while those of the last-named race are, like all mountaineers, the most manly and free in their bearing and ideas. The low-countrymen, or Cingalese proper, are generally lazy, cunning, and much given to thieving. In the forests to the eastward of the Kandian country roam at large,

As free as nature first made man,
Ere the base laws of servitude began,
When wild in woods the noble savage ran,

the Veddahs, the supposed aborigines of the island—termed of late, by an undoubted authority, "the interesting race who dwell in trees;" the untamable and the untaxable wild men of the woods. There is a large number of Malays also in the island, introduced originally to supply soldiers for Malay regiments, one of which, the Ceylon Rifles, is still kept up.

The Moormen, a race of Arab descent, who may be styled the Jew merchants

of the East, are to be found in the most remote villages, indeed in every corner where a bargain is to be driven, or a copper chally* gained.

When we mention that there are also many descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch, both quondam masters of Ceylon, as well as a sprinkling of French, and



BURNING OF THE AGED HIGH PRIEST OF THE GREAT TEMPLE OF KANDY.

in Ceylon, in connexion with the administration and government of that colony; and to report their opinion whether any measures can be adopted for the redress any grievances of which there may be shown just reason to complain; and, also, whether any measures can be adopted for the better administration and government of that dependency."



TODDY-DRAWER ASCENDING A COCOA-NUT TREE.

a large number of British, the variety of languages and jargons one hears spoken throughout the island will be readily imagined.

The whole of this garden of the East (the ancient Paradise, as some have strangely supposed) teems with richness, smiles with verdure, "and all but the spirit of man is divine."

* One of the smallest current coins in Ceylon.



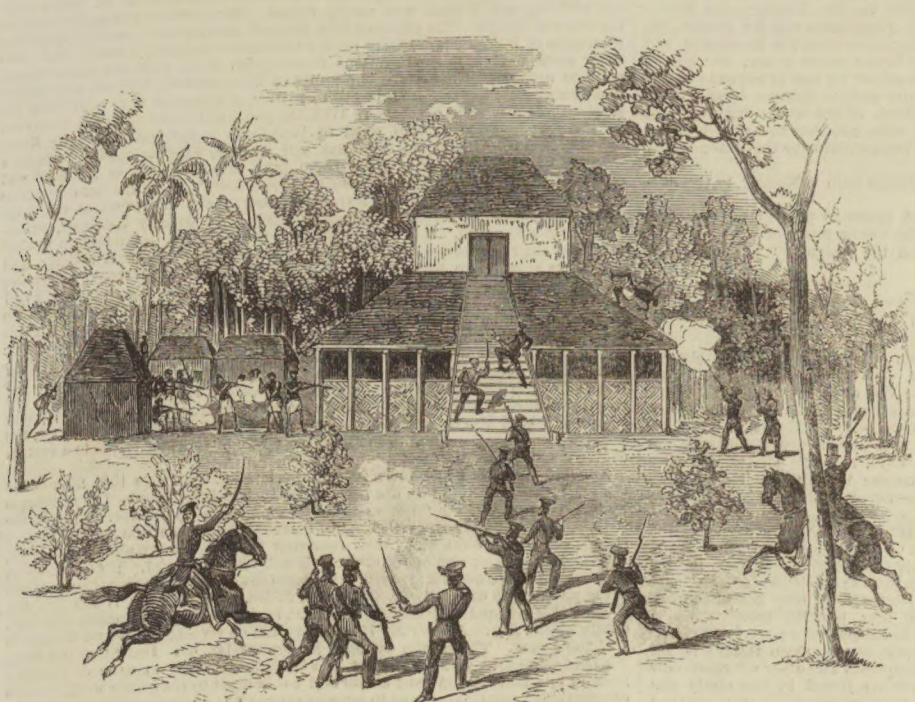
MAJOR DAVEY'S TREE.



THE COMMANDANT'S QUARTERS AT MATELE.



THE LATE INSURRECTION IN CEYLON.



ATTACK ON THE WARRIAPOLA STORE.

Our first Illustration represents the attack on the store at Warriapola, where the pretender, or King, who figured in the late disturbances, had slept during the previous night. The Kandians, after firing on the Ceylon Rifles, who are seen in the foreground, fled, a few being shot—one while in the act of leaping from an upper window. The King's palanquin was found in the store, with an unfortunate man who had secreted himself in it. The Kandian was immediately shot and bayoneted, while the palanquin was broken into pieces.

The second Sketch shows the troops crossing the bridge close to Matelé, and one of the wounded prisoners, with his arms pinioned, leaping into the river. The act was so sudden that the soldiers had no time to stop him. He fell on his back in the water, which, though shallow, saved him from the pointed rocks beneath; and he was retaken apparently not much injured, though the height is very great.

The view of the Commandant's quarters at Matelé, as also of the gaol, guard-room, and thatched barracks, will prove interesting; this being the town first sacked by the rebels, and the place in which so many of them were afterwards tried by courts-martial and shot. When the rebels entered Matelé, they broke open the gaol and liberated the prisoners; at the same time sacking the sub-assistant surgeon's quarters and the hospital, now converted into the Commandant's house and the guard-room. The barracks were erected by forced labour during the existence of martial law.

The view of Kandy, the capital of the central province, beginning with the Government granary on the right, comprises consecutively the Ceylon Rifle Mess-house, the Magazine, on an island, and formerly the King's harem; the Library (once the King's baths), the great Temple of Kandy, with its octagonal tower, the new Episcopal Church, and the Bank. To the right of the granary, is seen part of a coffee estate, while behind the centre of the view winds "Lady Horton's walk," a delightful and most picturesque ride, from part of which one sees the extensive vale of Doombura, with the Maha Villé Ganga, or Great Yellow-sand River, winding through it, and forming one of the most charming prospects in the world. The lake in the foreground is artificial, having been formed by one of the Kings of Kandy, by banking up the lower end of the valley, at that time full of terraced rice-fields. It improves the appearance of Kandy very much, and a beautiful drive runs along its banks, the whole way round.

Major Davey's tree was the scene of a dreadful massacre of British soldiers in the year 1803, when we had, for the first time, taken possession of Kandy. Here some thirty men, including six or seven officers, were murdered, after having, under a solemn treaty, given up their arms. Having marched out of Kandy to the ferry at the spot, a distance of three miles, they found the river swollen



ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF A PRISONER AT THE BRIDGE NEAR MATELE.



KANDIAN CHIEF, FATHER OF LOCO BANDA.

Encamped under this tree for two days and nights, exposed to incessant rain, and without food, they were reduced to the necessity of laying down their arms. No sooner had they done this than they were led away, two at a time, and inhumanly massacred, being struck on the head and neck with heavy knives. Major Davey and two captains alone were spared. The two latter soon died, while the former lingered through a disgraceful captivity of eleven years. A corporal, who was left as dead, crawled by night to the hut of the ferryman, who succoured him and took him over the river. He succeeded in making his way to Trincomalee. A sub-assistant-surgeon named Greeving also escaped death, having hid himself in a dry well. All the sick—upwards of a hundred in number—left in the hospital in Kandy were murdered in their beds, save one artilleryman, who escaped severely wounded. The Kafir who acted as executioner at Davey's tree, is still to be seen in Kandy. The Peak of Hoonasgrira, in the background, overhanging the Vale of Doombura, and the Knuckles Mountains now the site of many coffee estates, add to the interest of the scene.

The Kandian chief, whose Portrait we give, was one of the principal ministers of the last King, and father of Loco Banda, the present head of the family, and chief of the Kandy police force.

It is the custom of the Kandians to burn the bodies of their deceased chiefs and priests, while those of the commonalty are buried. The Sketch we give represents the burning of Galgiriavi Mahamike Unanse, the aged high priest of the Malagawa, or Great Temple of Kandy. At this ceremony many chiefs, priests and priestesses of Budhu were present. The body was laid on its face, and oil was poured over the pyre. The deceased having no relatives, his servant knelt before the pile, called out his late master's name, and, bidding him adieu, set fire to the pile. Cocoa-nuts are mixed up with the firewood, so that the bystanders may not know, when they hear a report, whether it is caused by the bursting of the skull of the deceased or of a cocoa-nut. Loud prayers were offered up by those around, while the aged priestesses sobbed violently.

The native climbing the tree is a toddy-drawer. Placing a ring of twisted bark cord round his ancles, he presses his feet against the cocoa-nut tree, puts his arms round it, and, by the alternate motion of his legs and arms, ascends. The juice is drawn from the spadix, which is sliced off near the top, the tree not being allowed to flower. It is a pleasant, wholesome beverage, when used fresh from the tree at sunrise; but it soon ferments, and forms the intoxicating arrack, of which the natives are becoming so fond.

Our last Engraving shows the interior of a Court-house in the Kandian provinces. The young Kandian woman complains of the treatment she has received at the hands of her husband, who stands on the opposite side of the doorway. The nondescript being leaning against the door-post is a policeman, with his knot of hair protruding from under his cap, and arrayed in his uniform, beneath which hangs his comby, or native cloth. The listless but litigious natives hang around the court, while the headmen and chiefs of the neighbourhood have seats within.



INTERIOR OF A COURT HOUSE IN THE KANDIAN PROVINCES.

THE LATE R. J. WYATT.

THE death of this accomplished sculptor and excellent man took place at Rome, on the 29th of May last, under circumstances of interest unusually touching. Wyatt was born on the 3rd of May, 1795, in Oxford-street, in London, where his father, Edward Wyatt, was then settled. At an early age the subject of our memoir was articled to Charles Rossi, R.A., for the term of seven years; and during that term his services at the Royal Academy were so successfully prose-



THE LATE R. J. WYATT.

cuted as to entitle him to the award of two medals upon different occasions. At the time Wyatt was under the tuition of Rossi, he executed a monument in the church of Esher, in memory of Mrs. Hughes, and another in the chapel at St. John's Wood. But it is to Canova, in a great measure, that Wyatt was indebted for the ultimate refinement of his tastes; his natural genius was at all times impressive in narrative, but it was under the great Italian sculptor that he began to versify in marble with the purest feeling. He had seen and admired the works of Canova even while under the instruction of Rossi; and when Canova visited this country, through the kindness of Sir Thomas Lawrence, Wyatt was introduced to Canova, who became so far interested in him, as at once to promise him his protection and the permission to work in his studio at Rome. Thither he proceeded in the early part of the year 1821, after having spent some time in Paris under the celebrated Italian sculptor Bozio; and so devotedly did he prosecute the labours of his profession, that only once in this lengthened term of nearly thirty years did he revisit his native country, and that occasion was in the year 1841.

Our countryman Gibson was also a pupil of Canova at the time of Wyatt's entrance into the studio of this great man, and from that time the greatest friendship existed between the two distinguished English sculptors. The industry of Wyatt was singularly constant. In summer, long before five in the morning, he was to be seen on his way to the Caffè Greco, where artists of all nations assemble; and in winter, long before daylight, he was to be seen at the same place reading the papers by the light of a taper which he always carried with him for that purpose. At daylight he was in his studio, and not only thus early, but he also remained at work sometimes until midnight.



"TUNING," DESIGNED BY THE LATE R. J. WYATT.

It was during Wyatt's visit to England, in 1841, that he was honoured by the Queen with a commission for his statue of Penelope, which in Rome was considered the best of his works. His group of "Ino and the Infant Bacchus," a statue of "Glycera," "Musidora," a statue; two statues of Nymphs, and "Penelope," a charming statue, the property of her Majesty, are all works of high merit.

During the operations of the French against Rome, Wyatt sustained great injury, of which he writes as follows to a friend:—

"I had a most providential escape in the attack the French made at Popolo the last day of June: I was awakened one hour and a half after midnight by the roar of cannon, the explosion of shells, the smashing of windows and tiles, the inhabitants of my quarter alarmed, and flying through the streets in all directions. I expected there would probably be an attack at the Popolo, as the French, after gaining possession of Ponte Molle, had taken up a position on the high ground beyond the *arco scuro*. I had put all my works in marble in places where they would be least exposed, and had selected for myself, in the event of being surprised by an attack at night, to go and remain at the bottom of a stone spiral staircase, which leads from my apartment to my studio on the ground-floor; on entering the second story for a chair, a shell burst in the wall, which is full two feet and a quarter in thickness; this was only four feet from where I was. If I had been another step in advance I must have been seriously wounded, perhaps killed; but, thanks to Providence, I escaped with a few slight scratches and contusions. The lamp I held was broken, and I believe protected my hand. I picked up nine pieces of the shell in my study; several casts were broken, but, happily, none of my marble works were injured."

It is difficult to determine the remoter causes of Wyatt's decease. He was, apparently, a hale and robust man, more so than any of his brother artists. The attack which destroyed him took place on the morning, it may be pre-

sumed, of the 28th of May; for at six o'clock, struggling between life and death, he was found on the floor of his bed-chamber by the woman whose business it was to attend to his rooms. She had entered by means of her own keys; and having raised him into his bed, she instantly sent for Mr. Freeborn, the British Consul, who immediately brought to his aid Dr. Pantaleone, and Mr. Spence, the sculptor. The doctor bled him, and did everything that his knowledge and experience suggested, but without avail; poor Wyatt never spoke, nor did he show any decided sign of consciousness. He breathed his last at ten o'clock.

His friends and professional brethren, Gibson and B. Spence, have kindly offered their aid in superintending the completion of the works that were in progress at the decease of Wyatt; and Gibson, with a feeling that does him honour, has signified his intention to erect a testimonial over the grave of his friend, at his own expense.

We have abridged these very interesting details from a Memoir in the *Art-Journal* for the present month.

The accompanying Likeness is from a sketch made 25 years since in Rome, by Mr. John Partridge, the portrait-painter, who was on terms of close intimacy with Wyatt, and to whom the sculptor presented the design of "Tuning" (here also Engraved) as a friendly souvenir.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT MATRIMONY.

MODERN science is invading all the old realms of whims and fancies, charms and witchcrafts, prejudices and superstitions. No kind of ignorance seems sacred from attack. The wise men of our generation are evidently bent beyond recall on finding out all things that may by possibility be discoverable, no matter what pains the search may impose. Not content with making lightning run messages, chemistry polish boots, and steam deliver parcels and passengers, the savants are superseding the astrologers of old days, and the gipsies and wise women of modern ones, by finding out and revealing the hitherto hidden laws which rule that charming mystery of mysteries—that lode-star of young maidens and gay bachelors—matrimony.

In our fourteenth number we gave a description of the facts made out by the returns of the Registrar-General on the subject of life and death in London and the Country. The office of that official has some other duties, however, beyond that of chronicling the business of mortality and birth in this land of ours. There is a third great heading in his tables, under which there are long lists of serious-looking figures, and they tell not in units, or in fives, like the back page of a newspaper, but in tens of thousands, how many marriages take place in England. And besides the mere number of these interesting events, these figures reveal what are found to be the laws regulating their frequency and other circumstances connected with them, such as how many couples are joined by the costly and unusual mode of special license; how many by ordinary license; how many (and they are the great majority) by the old English fashion of "out-asking" by banns; how many by the new systems introduced for the union of various classes of dissenters, at Registrars' offices, in registered places of worship; how many between Quakers and between Jews; and, beyond all these particulars, how many young folks, hot of heart and full of courage, take the awful plunge into matrimony whilst "not of full age;" how many men reject the advice of Sir Roger de Coverley, and marry widows; and how many widows, like the wife of Bath, love matrimony so well that when once released from its bonds they tie themselves up in them again. The history of this registration of marriages is soon told. This plan of recording the matrimonial engagements of the country commenced in 1755, when the Marriage Act came into operation. Before that date marriages were performed clandestinely, and by such extraordinary persons that any correct record of their number was impossible. "Fleet marriages" are thus noticed by Smollett:—"There was a band of profligate miscreants, the refuse of the clergy, dead to every sentiment of virtue, abandoned to all sense of decency and decorum, for the most part prisoners for debt or delinquency, and indeed the very outcasts of human society, who hovered about the verge of the Fleet Prison, to intercept customers, plying like porters for employment, and performed the ceremony of marriage without license or question, in cellars, garrets, or alehouses, to the scandal of religion, and the disgrace of that order which they professed. The ease with which this ecclesiastical sanction was obtained, and the vicious disposition of those wretches open to the practices of fraud and corruption, were productive of polygamy, indigence, conjugal infidelity, prostitution, and every curse that could embitter the married state. A remarkable case of this nature having fallen under the cognizance of the Peers (in 1753) in an appeal from an inferior tribunal, that House ordered the judges to prepare a new Bill for preventing such abuses, and one was accordingly framed, under the auspices of Lord Hardwick, at that time Lord High Chancellor of England."

It underwent a great number of alterations and amendments, which were not effected without violent contest and altercation; at length, however, it was floated through both houses on the tide of a great majority, and steered into the safe harbour of Royal approbation.

For seventy-seven years after the passing of this bill the number of marriages was collected with tolerable accuracy, and published in the Parish Register Abstracts. No other country has so valuable an abstract of tables. Since that time the Registrar-General's office has made this branch of our national statistics almost accurate.

Premising that the documents from which our statements are derived are the Annual Reports of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in England, issued—not for a short term, but during the last six years—that the observations extend over a still longer period—we may proceed to cull out what appear to be the economical laws regulating matrimony, with any peculiarities characterising their operation amongst us. We would say the general laws, for individual peculiarities will, of course, influence individual matches. One young lady will secure the youth of her choice by force of beauty, or by mere weight of purse; managing mothers will get husbands for their girls, whatever wind may blow, or however trade or politics may influence the less fortunate or less clever world. The great beauty, the great talents, and the great wealth are the exceptions in the lottery of life. In speaking of matrimonial prospects, we, like the Registrar-General, mean the prospects of the great family of twenty millions of souls that make up the population of this land we live in.

About a century ago, the marriages in London were under six thousand a year—they are now four times as many. In all the country, the increase has been most remarkable in the Metropolis and in Manchester. In particular localities the proportion is found to differ. Thus Yorkshire, the seat of the Woollen manufactures and of prosperous agriculturists, appears to be the most marrying district of all England; Lancashire and Cheshire, the Cotton districts, coming next; and London third. Staffordshire and Worcestershire, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire stand next, followed by other counties more or less blessed by the presence of Hymen, but descending gradually till we reach the matrimonial zero which is found in the agricultural parts of Middlesex. The average annual number of weddings is about one hundred and twenty-three thousand. It would help a winter night's amusement to decide how many pounds weight of Californian produce must be wanted for the rings? How many garlands of orange blossoms for the hair and bonnets of the brides? The probabilities of marriage, of course, vary; but the rule seems to hold, that about one in seventeen unmarried women between the ages of fifteen and forty-five are married in a year throughout the country. Marriages have their seasons. They are least numerous in winter, and most numerous after harvest in the December quarter; the births and deaths, on the contrary, are most numerous in the winter quarter ending in March, and least numerous in the summer quarter ending September. War diminishes marriages by taking great numbers of marriageable men away from their homes; whilst a return of peace increases marriages, when soldiers and sailors with small pensions are discharged. Trade and manufactures have also become more active in England on the cessation of wars; and the employment and wages thus induced, have contributed still more to add to the numbers of those entering the married state. The establishment of new, or the extension of old employments promotes marriages: the cotton manufactures, the canals of the last century, the railways of the present day, are examples. Indeed, an increase of their incomes is taken by the generality of the people for the beginning of perennial prosperity, and is followed by a multitude of marriages. There are only about fifteen persons married annually, for the first time, out of a thousand living. There are about five children born in wedlock to every marriage. The births now exceed the deaths in England, in about the proportion of three to two—three young subjects present themselves for Queen Victoria, in place of every two that pass away. "The number of marriages in a nation," says a Registrar, "perhaps fluctuates independently of external causes; but it is a fair deduction from the facts, that the marriage returns in England point to periods of prosperity, little less distinctly than the funds measure the hopes and fears of the money market. If the one is the barometer of credit, the other is the barometer of prosperity—a prosperity partly in possession, and still more in hope. The year 1845 was a great matrimonial year, the proportion of persons married being more than had been known in England for ninety years before. It was a season of great speculation, activity, and temporary prosperity. Three years before, in 1842, on the contrary, there was a great diminution in the number of weddings. It was a year of difficulty and high prices. Rather more than ten per cent. of the persons married in 1845 had been married more than once. When food is dear, as in 1839, marriages are few; as food becomes cheap, as in 1845, marriages are many. When a cheap food year indicates a year of "marrying and giving in marriage," another sign is generally found; the price of Consols indicates a condition of national affairs much more conducive to matrimonial arrangements, than young ladies would imagine. In what may be called the great English matrimonial period, the Three per Cents were about par, instead of being about 88, as they were in the unfavourable season a short time before. When employment is plenty, trade active, and money easy, Doctors Commons becomes brisk, clergymen have long lists of banns to declare, and the Registrar's column of marriages fills up.

As an instance of the influence of the price of food and want of employment upon the number of marriages, let us take an illustration from the Register as to the period from 1792 to 1798. The weather was bad, the funds low, and bread excessively dear, and upon particular districts a change of fashion made the burthen fall with still additional weight. The "Church and King" riots broke out in July, 1791, in Birmingham; and the mob burnt Dr. Priestley's library, several houses, and some dissenting chapels; in May, 1792, they again rose, but the magistrates this time evinced some vigour, and put a stop to the outrages. A staple manufacture of Birmingham had been subjected to one of the mutations of fashion, which caused great distress; for it is recorded, that, on December 21st, 1791, "several respectable buckle-manufacturers from Birmingham, Walsall, and Wolverhampton waited upon his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with a petition setting forth the distressed situation of thousands in the different branches of the buckle manufacture, from the fashion now, and for some time back, so prevalent, of wearing shoestrings instead of buckles. His Royal Highness graciously promised his utmost assistance by his example and influence." After the recovery of George III. from his first illness, in 1789, an

immense number of buckles were manufactured about Birmingham; Walsall, among other places, invested the greater part of its available wealth in the speculation. The King unfortunately went in the state procession to St. Paul's without buckles, and Walsall was nearly ruined. Shoe-strings gradually supplied the place of straps. The effect of this freak of fashion and speculation on the marriages of Birmingham was to reduce them most seriously; and it had probably more to do with the licentious Birmingham riots, than the more patent political agitation of the day. The disuse of wigs, buckles, buttons, and leather breeches at the close of the eighteenth century, is supposed to have affected the business of a million of people. In 1765, the peace of London had been disturbed by the periwig-makers, who went in procession to petition the young King, "submitting to his Majesty's goodness and wisdom, whether his own example was not the only means of rescuing them from their distress, as far as it was occasioned by so many people wearing their own hair." When change of fashions influence unfavourably the employment of the people, and when, at the same time, influenced or increased by lack of work their poverty increases, matrimony is at a discount. It is not simply the poorer classes, dependent on weekly wages for their support, who feel the influence of times of business activity, and allow it to impel them to matrimony. When the workman is busy, the trader makes profits, the landlord gets his rents, and all sections of the community feel the beneficial influence of a prosperous season. The number of those persons entirely removed from such social sympathies is very few; indeed, as a great rule, when the workmen are prosperous, all classes above them are thriving too; and when the one section of the great English family is influenced to matrimony in an unusual degree, the others feel the influence of the same law. When the reaction, a period of depression, arrives, the number of marriages declines, they have never fallen back to their original numbers. A time of prosperity lifts up the total in a remarkable manner, and when the happy time ceases, the number falls—but not equal to the level from which it sprung. It is to a certain degree a permanent increase.

As to the mode in which marriages are performed, it appears that nine out of ten take place according to the rites of the Established Church. The marriages by banns are about six times as numerous as those by license. Upon these weddings, by aid of Doctors Commons, there is, it seems, a vast sum of money spent; but who are the lucky men receiving it, does not appear very clearly, and the service they render for the cash is still more doubtful. There are about eighteen thousand licenses granted by Doctors Commons and by country surrogates every year. The usual cost of the license at Doctors Commons is £2 12s. 6d. There is 10s. 6d. additional for minors; and in the country, surrogates, it is said, obtain higher fees. At only £2 12s. 6d., the tax on eighteen thousand licenses is £47,250 a year. The stamps on each license are 12s. 6d. Deducting this sum, the licenses to marry yield at least £36,000 a year. The expense of granting licenses in a manner the most useful and convenient to the public would not be considerable; and it is not easy to see why the surplus revenue derivable from the tax should not go into the public treasury, when a portion of the expenses of the registration of births, deaths, and marriages is paid out of the Consolidated Fund. The aggregate amount of charges for the General Register Office, at which all the returns of the country are examined, indexed, and analysed, and the Act is administered, was £13,795 in 1846; and the six hundred and twenty-one superintendent registrars received £9097 for examining certified copies. After discharging the expenses of the civil registration, defrayed by the Consolidated Fund, and the cost of the decennial census, a large surplus would be left, out of £47,250 for licenses, to go to the public revenue of the country. And this would not interfere in the slightest degree with the marriage fees, which would continue to be paid to the officiating clergy. In the places of worship registered by Dissenters, there were not quite ten thousand marriages in one year; nearly four thousand in the same year took place in the Superintendent Registrars' offices; one hundred and eighty-four according to the rites of the Jews; and seventy-four marriages between Quakers. The only fortune-teller who can henceforth be believed, is the one who answers the question, "When will the wedding take place?" by saying, "When trade flourishes, and when bread is cheap."—(DICKENS'S "Household Words.")

GENERAL WILLISEN.

GENERAL WILLISEN, Commander-in-Chief of the Schleswig-Holstein army, is about sixty years of age. Descended from a noble Prussian family, he was early destined for a military career, and in the campaign of 1806 served as cadet in an infantry regiment. After the disasters at Jena and Auerstadt, he returned to the University of Halle, where he spent the next few years in the retirement of study. When the circle of the Saal was added to the kingdom of Westphalia, Willisen became liable to the military conscription, which was established in the new monarchy after the French model. His attempts to withdraw from the operation of this measure miscarried. He was carried to Cassel, and for a short time imprisoned there. This event took place in 1809, just as Austria was about to turn for the fourth time her arms against France. The occasion was favourable to Willisen's flight, however otherwise venturesome this may have been. He proceeded to Vienna, entered a free corps with which he fought in Italy and the Tyrol, and a few years later returned to the Prussian service. From 1813 to 1815, we find him attached to the general staff of Field-Marshal Prince Blücher. He was then in a good school. Led at first by Scharnhorst, then by Gneisenau, and including such men as Generals Clausewitz and Grolmann, this small corps of officers comprised the rarest military talents. Willisen remained in this position for a certain time after the conclusion of peace; and at the end of twenty years' experience, he was appointed to give instruction in military history in the General Military School of Berlin. The aim of his instructions was to lay down a clear and complete system of warfare, which, in respect of method, must, of course, be his own work, but, as to its principles, was nearly related to the system expounded in the writings of the Russian General, Jomini. Proceeding from the axiom, that the object of the art of war is victory, and of victory the attainment of military ends, he regards the army, the instrument of attaining those ends, under two aspects—first and chiefly, according to its requirements; and secondly, as to its capabilities. The supply of the first is the subject, then, of the first part of military science—"the doctrine of conditions" or strategy: to teach how the latter may be best brought out and applied, is the object of the second part of the system—tactics. Willisen then considers victory as it may be attempted in one of two ways, either by aggravating the enemy's difficulties, or by attacking him. It will be seen from the foregoing outline, that Willisen's instructions were at least systematic and logical. His views, however, met with various receptions; and to confute certain objections urged against his principles, he undertook, in 1831, through the medium of the *Military Weekly Gazette*, to establish and illustrate them by the course of the then undecided Polish war of independence. In his articles he incidentally gave advice to the Polish heroes, and thus disclosed a political bias in no way calculated to win the favour of the court. Willisen, at that time a Major, fell into displeasure. His articles, however, made a great impression in all circles; they were clear, defined by logic, and animated by political feeling; but the issue of the war was unfortunate for their author, as it directly contradicted his predictions. Thus Willisen had prophesied that if the Russians below Modlin should cross the Weichsel, they would be lost. But they did so, and took Warsaw, and so shortly ended the war. Damaging as the exposure of this error was for Willisen, the death of his scientific rival and opponent was a more important event. General Von Clausewitz died November 16, 1831; and soon after, his widow published, from the copious literary remains of her husband, that work entitled "War," which has since become so celebrated. Many of Willisen's views were here controverted, and his theory generally denied. After a long silence, Willisen published in 1840 a reply, in a formal exposition of his system; he has had many opponents, but no rival to be compared to Clausewitz. For several years before 1848 Willisen was stationed at Posen, with the office of Chief of the General Staff of the 5th Army Corps, and afterwards as Commander of a Brigade. The plenipotentiary powers in the Duchy of Posen in 1848 are part of the history of the commotions of March. In the autumn of the same year he was present with Radetzky at the siege of Malgheira, and observed the progress of the Italian campaign, whose history he has since written. In the promotions of the spring and summer of 1849 Willisen's name was omitted, and this circumstance may have induced him to apply for the dismission which was granted him in the spring, with the title of Lieutenant-General.

POLICE AND LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.—Hitherto this capital has been *quasi* without a police, as the persons employed to watch over the security of the inhabitants are of the worst description of characters, themselves accessible to crime, bribery, and injustice. Crimes were committed by night and by day in the public thoroughfares with the greatest impunity. The streets themselves bear no names, the houses are not numbered, and a stranger arriving here requires a guide to conduct him to a friend, who might be a next-door neighbour. To such ridiculous inconveniences in a great metropolis an end is now about to be put. Policemen, organised on the London plan, are being established. The whole of the innumerable houses of bad fame have been closed, and the inmates expelled the capital. Hundreds of worthless characters without foreign protection have been seized, and wherever no guarantee was presented thrown into prison. The houses are to be numbered, the streets named, and we are promised all the security of European cities in this respect. Should more attention be paid to the paving of streets, I am sure it would have the most beneficial effect. The actual state of things is wretched in the extreme. And should you by misfortune be invited out at night, notwithstanding the aid of a potent lantern, it requires a good knowledge of localities to reach the place of destination. To afford you an idea of how agreeable this change will be, I give you the copy of a card of address, presented a few days back to a traveller, who was desired to call on his referee:—"The third house on the right hand in the street leading from the guard-house of the hill of Tophane to the small burying-ground; a large house, painted orange colour, and with Venetian blinds." This is not an exaggeration; indeed, to be found out in this city, you must give a similar address, and even then none but the inhabitants can discover your lodgings. The Porte acts very properly in profiting by its diplomatic leisure to accomplish such important improvements. Unfortunately, in this country reforms are always on foot, but you cannot rely on their continuing. Thus, some couple of years back, the streets of Pera were lighted up at night, and the whole of the inhabitants subscribed towards defraying the expenses; but, with all this, the plan was abandoned after six months' trial. We all hope the present improvements will be permanent, and fully carried out.—*Correspondent of the Morning Herald.*

The Heythrop (Oxfordshire) hounds began cub-hunting in the forest on the 1st instant, at six o'clock in the morning, and had excellent sport. We may add, for the satisfaction of our sporting friends, that the birds appear to be very strong this season, and the covies more numerous than usual.

The Journey from London to Homburg, passing through Brussels, Cologne, Meuz, and Frankfort, is performed in 36 hours. The distance from Frankfort to Homburg is got over in one hour and a half. Mail Coaches and Omnibuses run between these places every hour.

Sold by all perfumers and medicine venders in town and country.
Wholesale London Agents:—Messrs. Barclay and Sons, Farringdon-
street; Edwards, St. Paul's Church-yard; Sutton and Co., Bow
Church-yard; Sangar, 151, Oxford-street; and Hannay and Co.,
Oxford-street.

Post Office of the Institution, No. 40, Norfolk-street, Strand, or by letter post-paid.

Open for granting Annuities daily, from Ten till Three.

The amount paid to the Government for the purchase of Annuities is granted through this Office, during the quarter ending 31st July, as follows:—The total amount paid to the Government exceeds £467,908.

Savings Bank open for the receipt of Deposits Saturday and Monday Evenings from Seven till Nine, and Tuesday Mornings from Eleven till One.

Interest payable to Depositors is £3 per cent. per annum.

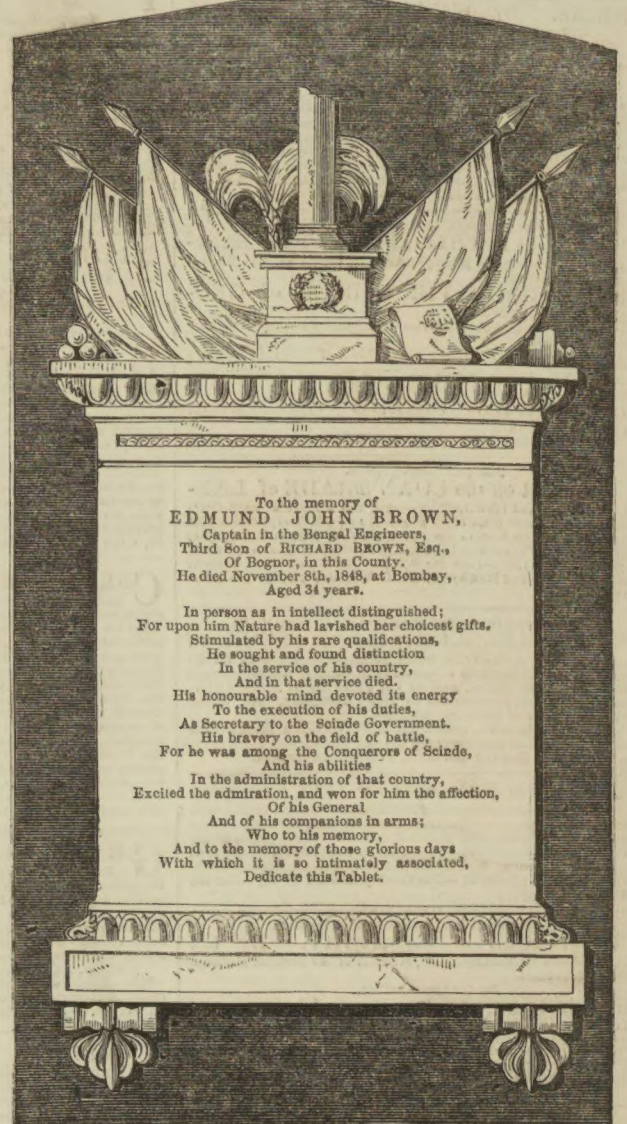
August 9th, 1850, W. T. WOOLCOTE, Actuary

establishment for the purpose, and a guard to protect it against wild beasts, and the savage Bheels, still more formidable, with which the jungle abounds.

MONUMENT TO CAPTAIN E. J. BROWN, OF THE BENGAL ENGINEERS.

This characteristic memorial has just been placed in the church of Bursted, in Sussex, to the memory of Captain E. J. Brown, who fell in the Scindian war.

The inscription derives an especial interest from its being from the pen of Sir C. J. Napier, and records, we believe, the general sense entertained in Scinde of this gallant young officer's merits. Able alike in the field and in the cabinet, there was also something chivalrous in the courage of Captain Brown; as Scindians, who remember the entrenchments of Hyderabad and the ride to Omerkote, will not be slow to testify. Of such men, not uncommonly, are the first-



MONUMENT TO CAPT. E. J. BROWN, JUST ERECTED IN BURSTED CHURCH, SUSSEX.

fruits of Death; and such especially should a grateful country hold up to the emulation of her young officers in the East.

THE LATE STEAM-BOAT BOILER EXPLOSION.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

SIR.—The late fatal accident at Bristol to a high-pressure boat should not be passed over without some practical suggestions that may prevent its repetition. It is clear that most of the unhappy people that were thrust into eternity on that occasion were ignorant of the character of the vessel they were embarking in. From twenty-five years' acquaintance and connexion with steam navigation, I am sure that not one passenger in twenty in this country would put his foot on board a steamer, if he had an idea she was worked with high-pressure steam; and I would suggest that the Board of Trade (who have ample powers) should make it compulsory on all passenger steamers to have the pressure per square inch on the safety-valve painted in legible characters nine or ten inches long on the paddle-box, so that her Majesty's subjects might know before they paid the fare what sort of craft they were going on board of.

I was formerly of opinion that the engineer who made a high-pressure engine for marine purposes, should be tied down by legislative enactment to work it; knowing that such a regulation would be equivalent to a prohibition. But experience has shown me the inutility of legislative prohibition: that all we can do is to warn people, just as we license a cab to carry two, an omnibus twelve in and fifteen out, or vice versa; and after that, if any obstinate fool chooses to risk being blown up in the *Cricket*, with 50 lb. pressure, while he can go as fast in the *Fly* with five—why, her Majesty may have lost a subject, but not a valuable one.

Yours respectfully, M. L.
Fenchurch-street, Aug. 12, 1850.

MONUMENT TO THE LATE PRINCESS SOPHIA.

OUR readers will, doubtless, recollect that, at the funeral of her Royal Highness Sophia, in the cemetery at Kensal-green, the Royal remains were temporarily deposited in the catacombs beneath the chapel. Soon after this interment, a piece of ground was selected near the tomb of the late Duke of Sussex, where an elegant memorial has been erected to the Princess, and thither her remains have been removed. It consists of a large altar-tomb, of Sicilian marble, designed by Mr. Gruner, and executed by the brothers Signori Bardi, of Carrara, and Messrs. Noakes and Pearce, of London. The tomb is surmounted with an exquisitely sculptured sarcophagus; and upon one of the faces of the altar is inscribed—"Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—*St. Matthew*, chap. xi., v. 28. This very interesting memorial has been erected at the joint expense of the Royal Family.

STRANGE, IF TRUE.—The following is taken from the *Galway Mercury*:—The following fact, in connexion with the potato blight, may throw some light on that mysterious subject. A woman named Mary McDonough, aged 33, and from Oranmore electoral division of this union, was brought a few days ago on a car to the workhouse gate. She appeared to be suffering from acute pain; her hands and face presented the appearance of having been severely burned, as if they had been held over the flame of a strong fire. The skin was off, and the flesh corroded. In reply to questions put to her she made the following statement:—She was employed by a man of the above-named division to weed potatoes, and was at work about one o'clock p.m. on Friday, the 18th inst., in her perfect health, when a sudden blast of burning air came over her and she was thrown back. She felt as if a quantity of pungent snuff had entered her nostrils. She recovered in a few minutes, and found her hands and face scorched in the manner described. She also stated that the stalks of the potatoes where she was at work were burned to a cinder, and the tubers made soft and black. It is thought the parts of the poor woman's body which are affected by the blast will perish.

LONDON: Printed and Published at the Office, 198, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the County of Middlesex, by WILLIAM LITTLE, 198, Strand, aforesaid.—SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1850.—SUPPLEMENT.



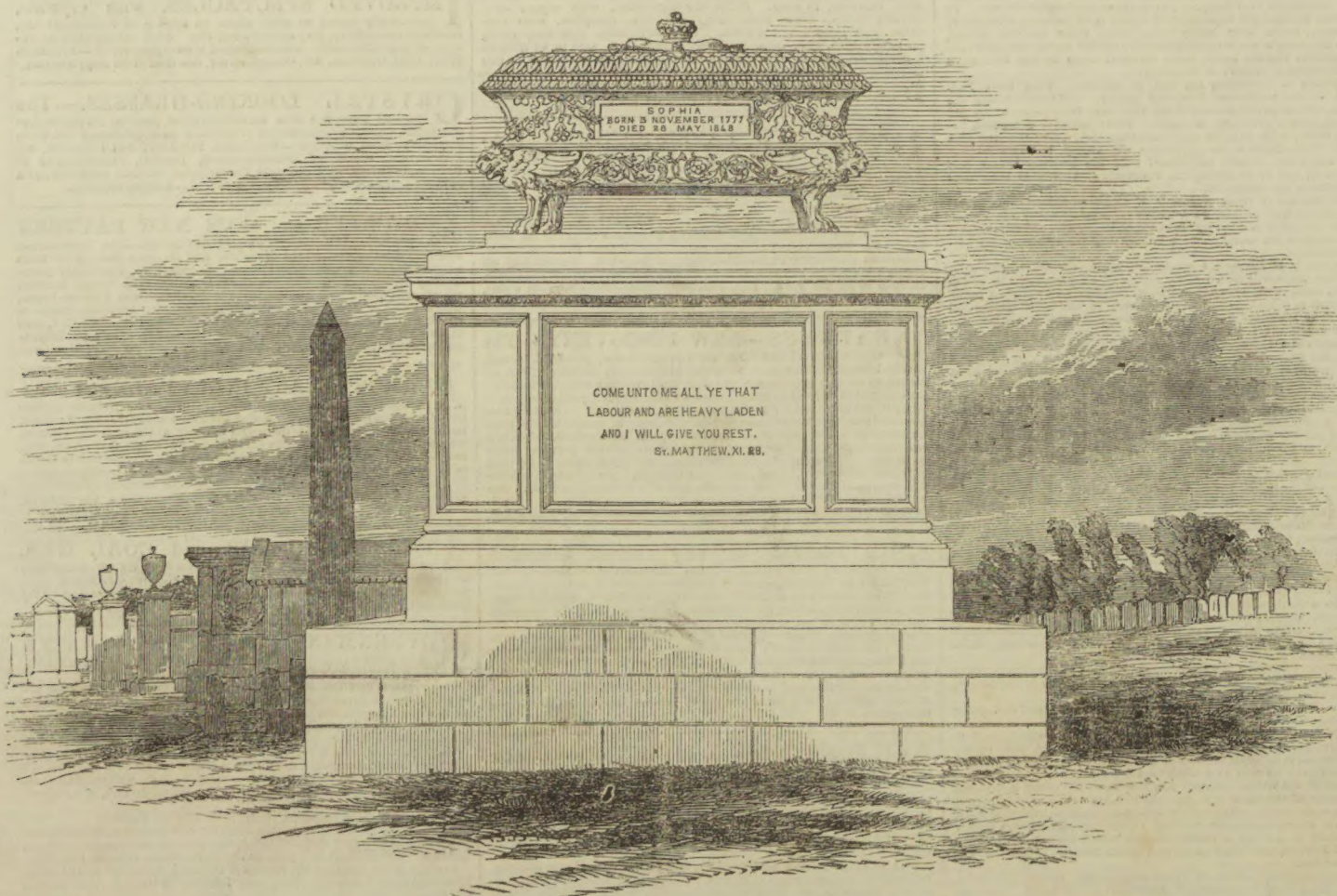
NEW CHURCH ON MOUNT ABOO, IN RAJPOOTANA, EAST INDIES.

NEW CHURCH ON MOUNT ABOO, IN RAJPOOTANA, EAST INDIES.

(From a Correspondent.)

INDIA is an country of interest principally on account of our recent brilliant victories and vast accessions of territory; but there are changes in it going on of an important though less striking character: old residents remark a vast improvement in the social habits and tone of society amongst Anglo-Indians, connected with, perhaps caused by, the decrease of conviviality, the increase of marriage, and the consequent introduction throughout the country of amiable and accomplished ladies and engaging families. Connected with this state of things, and, perhaps, standing to it in relation both of cause and effect, is the increase of places of worship, and of the religious advantages belonging to them. The little Church or Chapel represented above is an object of no common interest, from its being, we believe, the first Christian temple erected in a province of India of great extent and considerable importance, and from its planting, as it were, the standard of the cross on a mountain esteemed pre-eminently holy, and abounding with some of the most ancient and costly monuments of idolatry to be found in the whole continent of India. Rajpootana consists of a number of independent states, ruled over by separate rajahs, but having an international court, and some other institutions in common, analogous to the Germanic Confederation or the Saxon Heptarchy. One of these, Ajmeer, is a British possession, and thus brings us into close connexion with the Rajpoot Princes: they are, for the most part, an independent, high-spirited race, proud of their ancient and feudal institutions, but attached to the English rule; inasmuch that when the disastrous retreat from Cabul had given rise to apprehensions of a general insurrection throughout the country, they voluntarily came forward with an offer of 40,000 sabres, if required, in our aid. Relations are kept up with them by a political resident, as representative of the British Government at each Court, under the superintendence of the "Agent for the Governor-General in the Rajpoot States," who resides at Ajmeer, and to whom the various states, in their turn, send Vakeels, or Consuls. Mount Aboo stands in the territory of Serohee, one of these States, and is a vast mass of granite, having the form of an irregular square, with rounded corners, presenting a side of about thirteen miles nearly to each point of the compass. The north-east corner is considerably higher than the rest, and is about 4500 feet above the level of the sea, and 800 above the Sanitarium. On the highest point is erected a small temple, from which the view is sublime, from its vast extent: this point is called, from the temple above-named, the Gori Sikra, or Priest's Pinnacle. The summit of the mountain is rugged table-land, surrounded by a very broken and irregular margin of granite ridges, and is divided by minor ridges into many beautiful valleys: the bottoms of most of these are as level as the surface of water, and are extensively cultivated with barley. The grape, peach, pomegranate, corinda (a sweet fruit resembling a damson), and dogrose, with a great many flowering shrubs, grow wild. Many European flowers, with the mulberry and potato, have been tried, and found to answer well; and there is little doubt, if Europeans were permanently resident there, that most of the fruits and flowers of temperate regions might be advantageously cultivated. The place has for many years had the highest reputation for sanctity, and the temples at Dewilwarra, erected by Guzerat merchants, about 800 years since, are said, by competent judges, to surpass everything of the kind in India; no description, and, indeed, no drawing, could do justice to the elaborate alto-relievos in alabaster with which the interiors are covered. At Achilghur, a ruined fort, formerly the residence of the Pramara or Kings of Aboo, on the east face of the mountain, are some temples less elaborate, but of greater antiquity.

But the great attraction of Aboo is the climate. Rising with singular abruptness from a plain of vast extent, which has no appreciable rise for 120 miles, and is swept from March to June by a strong wind from the parched deserts of Kutch and Sind, it is scarcely possible to conceive the transition which an ascent of two hours causes, or the contrast which its cool breezes and ever-varying landscape present to the scorched ground and dusty atmosphere of the plains. In these a thermometer carefully protected from the action of the sun, direct and indirect, occasionally rises to 114°, and is sometimes 96° at midnight. On this account, Aboo is a favourite resort during the hot weather for the political agents scattered throughout Rajpootana, and for officers and their families from the surrounding stations of Nusseerabad, Neemuch, and Deesa. To the last station particularly it is of great importance, being only forty-five miles distant; and Deesa, containing one of her Majesty's Regiments (the 86th), with a troop of Horse Artillery, and two Native regiments, making up on the whole about 1500 Europeans, for the sick of whom a sanatorium has been established. This station is by no means on the most picturesque, or, perhaps, the most salubrious part of the hill, being rather low, and near a lake which receives a great part of its waters; but this lake, about half a mile in circumference, and of surpassing beauty, has, doubtless, been the first attraction, and the station has gradually extended from it. The number of residents at present, including 20 ladies and 32 children, is about 220. Divine service was at first celebrated by the chaplain of Deesa, who makes a certain number of visits during the year to the soldiers and gentry separately: to the first in a tent, then under a large tree, and finally in their new barracks; to the latter in any room he could procure. As the mountain was becoming yearly a place of more general resort, and several families had successfully tried the experiment of remaining there during the monsoon, it was resolved to build a small church in which rich and poor might worship together, and which, from its ecclesiastical appearance, might show to the heathen around that we have a religion and a worship—a fact which many of them doubt. A subscription list was opened on December 13th, 1849; and, the interior being completed, Divine service was first celebrated in it on May 12, 1850. It is 44 feet long by 17 feet broad, and will accommodate about one hundred persons. Arches are built in the wall, to allow of transepts being hereafter added, if more room should be required; but the present accommodation is sufficient, a considerable proportion of the European soldiers being Roman Catholic. The building is of brick, and covered with tiles, as an improvement on the thatch generally used in such stations. The design and superintendence devolved on the chaplain; and, in carrying it out, considerable difficulties had to be overcome. The mountain furnishes no kind of artificers whatever, and the cutting of timber on it is strictly prohibited. Brick and tile makers, bricklayers, carpenters, &c., had therefore to be induced, by a promise of fifty per cent. in addition to their ordinary wages, reluctantly to go out from Deesa, where also all the wood-work had to be prepared, then carried over fifty miles of sandy road as heavy as a ploughed field, and finally carried on men's heads up a steep mountain, far higher than Snowden: in addition to this, the work was altogether new to the native artisans; and, there being no foreman, or clerk of the works, the clerical architect was obliged to depend on the instruction afforded by a wooden model prepared with his own hands, and such occasional flying visits as he could make amidst the pressure of other duties. The total cost of the building and its furniture will be about 1400 rupees, or £140, including a disheartening loss of all the teak-wood doors and windows, with part of the roof, by fire, after they had been conveyed to the summit. The Goseins (Buddhist mendicant friars), from whom opposition was expected, testified, instead, their satisfaction that another God was coming to dwell on Aboo, and offered to burn lime for the building in the jungles at the base of the mountain, where their sanctity protects them from human enemies—an offer which was gladly accepted, as the hill, unfortunately, affords no accessible limestone, and as it avoided the expense of sending out an



MARBLE TOMB OF THE PRINCESS SOPHIA, JUST ERECTED IN THE KENSAL-GREEN CEMETERY.